

كلمة واحدة للإسلام

Eyes on second place in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Rival left-wingers fighting for a run-off place in Brazil's first presidential election in 29 years have called for a united front against the poll leader, right-wing populist Fernando Collor de Mello. But parties remain unable to separate radical Luis Inacio Lula da Silva and veteran socialist Leonel Brizola as voting returns continued to trickle in Friday. With no candidate set to get in absolute majority, the first two in Wednesday's historic vote will go into a Dec. 17 run-off. Lula, a former leather operator running for the Workers Party, had been confident of victory Thursday and had begun seeking backing from left and centre-left parties to beat Collor. He called for "an alliance of all progressive forces." But television projections put Brizola ahead and commentators said the veteran politician, an exile under military rule, looked to have the advantage. Brizola has one of the world's biggest electorates, 82 million people. With 66 per cent of the vote collated from official state figures, Globo Television said Collor was leading with 14.2 million votes, followed by Brizola with 9.6 million and Lula with 8.4 million. But the gap between the two leftists was narrowing. Official figures, lagging behind Globo's because of computer problems, put Lula in second place ahead of Brizola.

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Palestinian schoolgirls sing national songs and chant slogans to mark the first anniversary of the proclamation of an independent State of Palestine

Palestinians stage paramilitary parade

SURIF, occupied West Bank (R) — Masked Palestinians with swords paraded in Israeli army uniforms in this West Bank village Friday to mark the anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of statehood.

Other Palestinians clashed with troops through the occupied territories where Palestinian leaders had called for a week of demonstrations to mark the Nov. 15 anniversary.

In Surif village, some 500 youths carrying the Palestinian flag and coloured balloons staged the anniversary march, led by a group of activists wearing the Israeli uniforms and carrying swords and binoculars.

The march lasted for over an hour but broke up when Israeli troops arrived.

The Israeli occupation authorities, who had mounted an intense anniversary clampdown on the occupied territories, lifted a curfew on the Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps Friday.

But they barred the strip's 650,000 residents from leaving the territory until further notice, the army said.

Responding to calls by leaders

of the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising, masked youths clashed with troops in the town of Hebron and in Matana and Arraba villages, Palestinian sources said.

Hospital staff said troops shot and wounded three Arabs in the clashes.

An army spokesman confirmed the Hebron shooting but had no reports on the other two. He said troops had wounded an Arab protester in the town of Ramallah and another in Burin village.

In the Gaza Strip's Yibna refugee camp, troops shot and wounded three Palestinians during clashes after Friday's prayers, local hospital staff said.

In nearby Maghazi refugee camp, masked attackers stabbed a local man suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities, hospital staff said. He was not badly wounded.

In Tel Aviv, an Arabic-speaking man stabbed and seriously wounded shopkeeper Yitzhak Zaltzman, 66, before fleeing, sources said. Police arrested nine Arab suspects.

The attacker's motive was not immediately known but police suspected Palestinian nationalist

causes, the sources said. Curfews remained in force on Gaza City's Sabra neighbourhood and on the Sheikh Ajlin area where unknown assailants shot dead two Israeli soldiers Monday, residents said.

Israeli forces continued to hunt the assailants and land, air and sea patrols watched for attempts to flee the strip, sources said.

Two homeowners in Gaza City were fined 350 shekels (\$175) each or face trial within 15 days because anti-Israeli slogans were painted on the walls of their homes, according to the Arab Jerusalem daily Al Fajr.

An army spokesman could not confirm the report but said Major-General Matan Vilnai had issued a standing order in Gaza to fine homeowners who did not remove such slogans, usually painted on houses by uprising activists at night.

In the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, the 50,000 Arab residents were confined to their homes for the ninth consecutive day and at least 14,000 residents of Jelazoun, Nur Shams and Qalandia refugee camps were under curfew, the army said.

Qasem: No peace process without PLO participation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The reaffirmation of the Palestinian people's identity and revived peace efforts in the region were the results of Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem said Friday.

"After the severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, there has been no justification for any side not to accept an independent Palestinian delegation, particularly after the issuance of the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions in Algiers, the speech Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat delivered at the United Nations," Qasem said.

"The PLO has accepted the right of all states to live in peace in the region and accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and thus there is no justification for any side to exclude it from the peace equation," Qasem added in an interview broadcast by Jordan Television on its weekly programme "Current Affairs."

The PLO, Qasem said, has proved that its position is

strategic and not tactical," and therefore no sides directly involved in the dispute can say no to the PLO.

Qasem criticised Israel's rejection of the exchange of land for peace formula, Palestinian people's legitimate right and any change in the status of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"They (the Israelis) say we want peace. Peace can only be attained after the Palestinian people attain their right to self-determination as well as the establishment of their state on the Palestinian soil," Qasem said.

"Following Jordan's severance of ties with the West Bank there was no Jordanian option," he said. "There is only a Palestinian option. The Palestinian people's rights are the core of the issue and Israel cannot continue for a long time ignoring this fact."

"The solution will undoubtedly begin with a Palestinian-Israeli equation," he said. "This entails Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and from other territories belonging to other countries."

The state of no war and no peace in the region, Qasem said, could lead to extremism and in-

stability which would affect the world as a whole.

"We are in the beginning of the 1990s. The changes are huge. We hope that the changes taking place in Europe will not be at the expense of the region," he said.

According to Qasem, the U.S. is still committed to the implementation of Resolution 242 implying exchange of land for peace and ensuring the right of all the peoples to live in peace, including the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

On Jordan's parliamentary election, Qasem said: "Every citizen hopes that the new Parliament's views would be realistic. We have basic and fundamental problems. If there are no practical and realistic solutions to such problems, then, God forbid, there will be a delay in facing pressing problems."

On the democratic process in Jordan, Qasem hoped that "this practice would continue in the years to come."

"Israel must realise that it is not the only side that practises democracy and free elections," he said. "This is something every Jordanian should be proud of."

Shamir challenges world opinion on Palestinians

CINCINNATI, Ohio (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has challenged much of world opinion, stating that the Palestinian issue was neither the most important nor the most dangerous problem facing the Middle East.

"We have stressed over and over again that the Palestinian question is only one of the problems that our initiative is seeking to resolve and not the most important or the most dangerous," Shamir said Thursday, referring to an Israeli proposal to hold Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

Much of world opinion and even a substantial proportion of Israeli opinion hold that the Palestinian problem is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But Shamir in a speech to the Council of Jewish Federations, an American-Jewish umbrella group, contended that the world had been blinded by "Arab propaganda and distortions." The real issue, he insisted, was the fact that 19 Arab states remained in a state of war with Israel.

His speech was reminiscent of a remark by the late Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir who declared in the early 1970s that there was no Palestinian nation. Shamir, on a week-long visit to the United States, reiterated his view that for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be tantamount to "national suicide."

In meetings with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker Wednesday, Shamir avoided an outright clash with a U.S. administration increasingly frustrated by its inability to achieve progress in the Middle East.

It was clear from the meetings there would be no early break-

through in Baker's efforts to get Israel and Palestinians around a negotiating table to discuss elections in the occupied territories.

Shamir said the United States wanted to see Middle East peace so much that it regarded the means to that end as of secondary importance.

He said critics of Israel would "have us agree to relinquish these areas, located in the underbelly of our state... and we cannot and will not take risks, even in the name of peace, that put our security in jeopardy."

Some American Jewish leaders have been increasingly critical of Shamir's tough stance, and a group of about 40 prominent American Jews handed him a

letter supporting the principle of Israel ceding land for peace.

"Please, do not mistake courtesy for consensus or applause for endorsement of all the policies you pursue," the letter said.

Baker last month put forward a five-point plan aimed to get such talks under way in an effort to stem bloodshed in the occupied territories.

Israel accepted the points on the condition that it would not be forced to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

There has been no official response from Egypt which is mediating between the U.S. administration and the PLO.

PLO seeks Arab League meeting on peace process

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked the Arab League to hold an emergency meeting on Israel's attitude towards Middle East peace moves, a league spokesman said Friday.

The PLO applied for the meeting at foreign ministers level late Thursday and the Arab League is circulating the request among member states, he said.

For such a meeting to take place, a simple majority of the 22 members must approve the request. It could be one or two days before the league has enough answers to call the meeting.

The PLO request said the agenda would be "Israel's policy towards negotiations and the peace process in the region."

The United States has just answered some PLO questions on

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan to arrange direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo.

A senior PLO official told Reuters Friday the U.S. response was neither positive nor negative. "I don't want to talk about it. I'm fed up with the whole affair," he added.

A senior PLO official was quoted in an interview published Friday as saying the PLO has requested to Arab League meeting to confront an Israeli document that claims the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are part of Israel.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, head of the PLO's information department, told the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba that the PLO already had submitted the request to the Arab League headquarters.

Massive reform rally in Prague

PRAGUE (R) — Tens of thousands of Czechoslovaks demonstrated for political reform Friday, many of them demanding the ouster of hard-line Communist Party leader Milos Jakes. "Jakes out" and "dialogue dialogue," demonstrators chanted at a rally outside the medical faculty of Prague's Charles University. The demonstration was held to mark the persecution and killing 50 years ago of Czechoslovak students who protested against the Nazi German occupation of their country. Police did not intervene against the demonstration, which was partly organised by the Socialist Youth Union and had been officially approved. Independent student groups helped plan the event. Organisers estimated the crowd at upwards of 30,000 people, making it by far the largest protest against the Communist authorities for 30 years. Most of the demonstrators were students. Waving blue-red-and-white Czechoslovak flags and carrying flowers and candles, they marched from the campus to Prague's Vysehrad cemetery where many national heroes are buried. They had originally sought to march through the city centre to Wenceslas Square but municipal officials approved the demonstration only after an alternative route leading away from the heart of the capital to the cemetery was agreed.



President Rene Muawad at a governmental palace in west Beirut. He cannot move to the presidential palace in Baabda in east Beirut where army commander Major Michel Aoun rejected his election

Falangists debate joining cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — Signs emerged Friday of a growing dispute inside Lebanon's largest Christian-political party over whether it should join a national unity cabinet which Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss is still striving to form.

Falangist Party President George Saadeh told Reuters he had not yet decided whether to take part in a government headed by Hoss, a Sunni Muslim supported by Syria.

He said a decision would be taken unanimously by the party, whose support is vital if Hoss is to have significant Christian representation in his cabinet.

Fouad Abu Nader, a member of the Falangist's decision-making political bureau, said he believed in greater unity with Christian army commander Michel Aoun and echoed Aoun's call for a full withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops.

Aoun rejected an Arab-sponsored peace pact ratified by parliament Nov. 5 and does not recognise Rene Muawad, the president elected under the plan, or Hoss, his prime minister.

Saadeh, who voted for the pact and for Muawad, said he would meet the president in north Lebanon over the weekend.

Before deciding whether to take part in a Hoss government, he said, "we have to see first who will take part in this cabinet and how it will be formed."

Abu Nader said the Falangist's political bureau would take the final decision. He declined to say if he opposed Saadeh joining the cabinet, but he accused Hoss of trying to put pressure on the Christian enclave.

He called for greater unity with

Aoun, but he added: "This does not mean we all have to be on the same wavelength. We are all trying to compromise. It's a delicate situation but we have seen worse."

A row erupted over the supply of money from the Central Bank, which has its headquarters in west Beirut but had tried to remain neutral in the power struggle. Banks in the Christian enclave have rationed customer cash withdrawals this week and bankers said the Central Bank had created a shortage of banknotes by cutting off funds to its branch at Jounieh in the enclave.

Sources at Central Bank headquarters blamed Aoun's military administration. They said his finance ministry was breaking the law by depositing tax revenue from the enclave at Baabda town hall rather than paying it in at Jounieh.

The sources said Aoun, who waged a six-month "war of liberation" from the enclave earlier this year to try to expel the Syrian army from Lebanon, feared Muawad would cut off funds to force him into submission.

The sources declined to confirm reports in local newspapers that Aoun was withholding a total of 12 billion pounds (\$27 million).

Sticks of dynamite damaged the houses of two Christian deputies in the enclave but no one was hurt. Farid Sarnal and Michel Sassine, along with other Christian deputies who voted for the peace pact and fear revenge, have not returned home.

Five attacks have been made previously on the property of Christian deputies.

Greek leaders pursue all-party government

ATHENS (R) — Greek political leaders failed Friday to form an all-party government to end a 12-day political crisis but agreed to try again.

Following inconclusive elections earlier this month President Christos Sartzetakis held more than two hours of talks with the leaders of the conservative, Socialist and Communist parties. But they left saying no agreement was reached.

The three parties, who have all made individual attempts to form a smaller coalition, have said they support an all-party unity government to avoid calling a third general election this year. But they are deeply divided over details of the proposed government's mandate. The Socialists want a long-term government with wide powers while the conservative New Democracy Party

and the Communists want only a short-term government with limited powers.

A spokesman for Sartzetakis said the talks were to resume Friday evening. He gave no details of the talks so far.

If the parties cannot form a government a new vote is expected on Dec. 17.

The Socialists and Communists could still pull a surprise with the help of the single ecologist deputy by forming a government backed by 151 seats in the 300-seat parliament.

Official sources said talks were going on behind the scenes on such a coalition which would have as its main aim electoral reform.

Earlier efforts to form this coalition failed because the ecologist, Greece's first Green deputy, rejected backroom deals with big parties.

E. German premier unveils 'irreversible' reforms

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's new prime minister Friday announced far-reaching reforms he called irreversible.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow named a younger, more streamlined East German coalition cabinet in which Communists would hold 17 of the 28 portfolios. Of the 44 ministers in the previous government, only four were non-Communists.

Modrow, bitterly criticising the way the Communist state had been run for the past 40 years, promised more liberal foreign trade rules, more private enterprise, reduced central planning and greater free-

dom for the country's 16.6 million people.

"This government assumes that citizens are permitted to do anything which is not expressly forbidden," he told parliament to loud applause.

After Modrow's speech, the head of one of the non-Communist parties announced it no longer would run in elections in a bloc with the Communists.

Manfred Gerlach, the head of the Liberal Democrats, called for "true sharing of power" in free voting.

Gerlach made no mention of his proposal to delete from the constitution a provision guaranteeing the Communists the leading role in society. A

parliamentary committee was expected to be set up later in the day to study that and other proposed changes.

The Liberal Democrats have become the most independent of the four small parties traditionally linked to the ruling Communists.

Communists Party chief Egon Krenz, who replaced hardliner Erich Honecker last month, has promised free elections and overseen the opening of East Germany's borders, including the Berlin Wall, for the first time in almost 30 years.

In addition, the old cabinet has resigned and the party politburo, the nation's highest

decision-making authority, was revamped and streamlined, bringing in reform advocates.

Modrow's address Friday was his first to parliament since he became premier Monday. It was broadcast live on East German television, which is received in West Berlin.

He spoke of hopes for improving the lives of East Germans while retaining a planned socialist economy.

The nation is "open for proposals on joint ventures, investment, transfer of profits and environmental pilot projects," he said, all of which address some of the concerns of Western businesses looking for openings in the East Ger-

man market.

The West, meanwhile, pondered the possibility of a reunified Germany.

"In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the world could not ignore the wishes of the German people if they opted freely for reunification of their divided nation."

He told the Bonn diplomatic corps that the opening of the inner-German border Nov. 9 would not lead to a resurgence of German nationalism and that West Germany would never pursue its "national goals" without the support of its allies.

But he added: "I am certain that no one in East or West will

be able to ignore a vote by all the Germans for the unity of their fatherland."

As the weekend approached, towns and villages along West Germany's eastern border overflowed with a new invasion of visiting East Germans.

"Total chaos has broken out," said a border police spokesman, who expected a repeat of last weekend, when some three million East Germans visited West Berlin and West German towns after travel restrictions were lifted.

Would-be shoppers maybe disappointed. Police said many shops were picked bare over the last few days.

War tempo rises in southern Sudan

KHARTOUM (C) — Fighting is raging around the town of Rumbek as the tempo of war rises anew in southern Sudan, diplomats in Khartoum said Friday.

Hostilities are growing around Wau in Bahr Al Ghazal region and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is massing forces near Juba, the south's largest town, possibly in preparation for a frontal assault, the diplomats said.

Sudan's north-south deadlock over Islamic laws hardened recently and General Omar Hassan Al Beshir, who led a June coup, has vowed to crush the rebels by the end of the year.

A steady escalation of battles since last month has ended a period of unformalised truce started in May to allow relief supplies into southern famine zones.

Much of the fighting has been in Blue Nile province, near the Ethiopian border, where rebels recently captured the border town of Karmuk and four nearby garrison villages.

Diplomats fear a renewal of full-scale hostilities in a war

which has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced 3.5 million.

Rebel radio, monitored in Kenya, said Thursday that SPLA forces had fought their way into Rumbek, 350 kilometres north-west of Juba, and driven government troops back to two positions where they were still entrenched.

Junta forces said earlier in the week they had killed 600 guerrillas trying to storm the town.

SPLA radio denied the losses. The official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Friday that the junta is sending delegations to Western Europe, North America and Japan to publicise proposals for a federal system in which regions could decide for themselves whether to apply Islamic laws. The idea is rejected by the non-Muslim southern rebels.

Diplomats said the globe-trotting peace drive appeared to be mainly a public relations stunt while the army prepared for a

major offensive. "The junta's heavy leaning towards a militant Muslim ideology has become a fact and we don't debate it any more," said one diplomat.

Relief flights to the south, where at least 250,000 people died of hunger or disease last year, have been banned for almost three weeks.

Between April and October, a U.N.-led programme took 107,000 tonnes of supplies to people on both sides, using railways, rivers and flights from Kenya and Uganda. A bigger operation is scheduled to start on Jan. 1.

A senior international relief official told Reuters the government was studying a proposal by Sudanese security chiefs to inspect the cargo of every relief plane when the ban is lifted.

Flights from Kenya and Uganda would have to land at Juba for inspection, said the official, who requested anonymity. "They are fighting a war and one could not expect them to believe that every plane taking relief supplies to SPLA-held areas is just taking food," the official said.

U.N. envoy leaves Iran without much progress in Gulf peace talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson left Iran for New York Friday, ending a 17-day shuttle mission that failed to break the deadlock in stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

But he told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in an interview that he has arranged for separate meetings between the foreign ministers of the two countries and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York next month.

He told the agency, monitored in Nicosia: "Not surprisingly, the positions (of Iran and Iraq) are in some respects wide apart."

He declined to elaborate on the details of his talks with officials in Tehran and Baghdad, saying Perez de Cuellar, should be the first to be briefed on the outcome, IRNA reported.

IRNA quoted Eliasson as saying Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, would meet separately with the U.N. chief in New York in mid-December.

In a statement released simultaneously in Iran and Iraq Thursday, Eliasson said that during his shuttle, which included 12 meet-

ings with officials of both countries, he focused on how to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"In the course of my talks with the representatives of both governments, I suggested ways to move the talks forward within the framework of Resolution 598 in order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," he said in the statement.

The resolution, which halted the 8-year Gulf war in Aug. 20 last year, calls for troops withdrawal to internationally recognised borders, the exchange of prisoners of war and a settlement of the conflict through U.N.-sponsored negotiations.

In his interview with IRNA, Eliasson said: "We need to make specific points, among them withdrawal of forces and exchange of POWs, but at the same time make sure we preserve the charter of the resolution as an integrated whole."

The Iranians want the resolution to be followed point by point in the order listed in the document, insisting that the first step should be an Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory they seized in the final weeks of the war.

The exchange of POWs should

come next, followed by clearing Shatt-Al-Arab Waterway, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf, of war debris.

Among the sticking points in the talks has been Iraq's claim on the Shatt Al Arab Waterway which formed part of the frontier between the two nations before the war.

The Iraqis want the border redrawn to include all of the strategic waterway in Iraqi territory.

There are some 100,000 POWs held by both sides and Iraq has offered that they be swapped outside the framework of the resolution. But Iran refused insisting on an Iraqi withdrawal first.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani in a sermon at Tehran University Friday accused Iraq of seeking to "disrupt the order of the resolution," Tehran Radio reported.

Rafsanjani called the Iraqi proposal for exchange of prisoners a "subterfuge."

Iranian spiritual leader Ali Khamenei said Wednesday that Iraq must disclose how many prisoners of war it is holding before any exchange of POWs can take place.

Germans, American in Cyprus after kidnap scare

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — Two West Germans and an American arrived in Cyprus from Lebanon Friday refusing to say anything about their 24-hour ordeal in the hands of armed robbers.

"We cannot say anything. We've been instructed not to talk," American Deborah Fahrend, 54, told reporters after arriving by ferry with West German Munir Sami, 39, and his

seven-year-old son Daniel. She did not say who told them to keep silent. Port sources said the three had tickets to fly to East Berlin Monday.

The three went to the West German embassy in Beirut Thursday after reading press reports that they had been kidnapped. They said they were held by gunmen in Beirut who took their money.

Denktash accuses Greek-Cypriots of refusing to share power

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash stepped up a war of words across the island's dividing line Friday, accusing Greek-Cypriots of being unwilling to share power.

Denktash, who heads a break-away state in North Cyprus, said President George Vassiliou was unwilling to share power with Turkish Cypriots because he could get away with the claim that his administration was the government of Cyprus.

"Cyprus shall never be a Greek island," Denktash told journalists. "Vassiliou will never succeed in colonising the Turkish Cypriots by deception under calls for unity."

Vassiliou told Reuters Thursday the breakaway north would never be recognised and Turkish Cypriots could not depend on the Turkish army — which invaded in 1974 after a short-lived coup by Greek-Cypriot rightwingers — to stay in Cyprus forever.

"If Vassiliou has put his final view... on record, Cyprus is destined to stay as an independent island with two states in it," Denktash said.

He said Vassiliou refused to recognise Turkish-Cypriots as an equal people with the right of self determination.

U.N.-sponsored talks about reuniting the island as a federation stalled in July when Denktash rejected a U.N. blueprint.

The two leaders are due to have separate meetings with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss prospects for resumption.

"The status quo will not be recognised by anybody," Vassiliou told Reuters on the sixth anniversary of the declaration of the so-called Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC).

"You can never build on the fact that a foreign army will be there forever," Vassiliou said. "Where is the safety when you know that you are dealing in property that doesn't belong to you and you depend... on the presence of a foreign army?"

Turkey occupied "the northern third of the island in 1974 in the wake of a Greek-backed coup. As Turkish troops advanced some 200,000 Greek-Cypriots fled south and about 50,000 Turkish Cypriots streamed north."

Turkey, with an estimated 29,000 troops stationed in the north, is the only country to have recognised the TRNC.

Vassiliou said Denktash was talking about secession and imposing apartheid on the island.

"He's talking about the right of secession, a non-executive government for a federation," Vassiliou said. Denktash did not want a united federal Cyprus but two separate countries.

"He wants an apartheid system on the basis of religion, not race," he said. "If you are a Muslim, you can't live in this part and if you are a Christian you can't live in the other."

This was completely unacceptable in today's world, Vassiliou added.

Afghan rebels deny report of attack on Jalalabad

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan rebels Thursday flatly denied claims by the Kabul government that they've launched a new offensive on the eastern city of Jalalabad. But one group said it killed 133 soldiers in a recent attack in the north.

Spokesman for the U.S.-backed insurgents based in Pakistan said the Soviet-backed government was spreading reports of major fighting for propaganda.

"There is nothing but routine operations there. If there was heavy fighting, we'd be getting reports," said Abdul Rahim, who heads a joint guerrilla news agency in Peshawar, about 115 kilometres across the border from Jalalabad.

Afghanistan's official media have reported all week that as many as 10,000 rebels, called Mujahideen, were attacking the city with the help of 3,000 Pakistani militiamen and other mercenaries.

About 4,000 Mujahideen launched an offensive on Jalalabad shortly after Soviet troops completed a phased withdrawal from Afghanistan last February, but it stalled in a withering stalemate.

"I think (Kabul) is just building this up so they can later say 'we repulsed the attack and won'," said another rebel source on condition of anonymity.

Both sides give highly conflicting reports of the war, and few can be confirmed independently.

One of the more powerful Mujahideen groups, the Hez-I-Islami, or Party of Islam headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, claimed its men killed 120 soldiers and 13 officers, and captured 81 others in an attack Sunday on supply convoys headed from the Soviet Union toward Kabul.

It said Hez forces captured a 40-kilometre stretch of the key Salang Highway in northern Baghlan province. The party claimed that 22 armoured vehicles, 57 ammunition trucks and 24 heavy cannons "were burnt to ashes."

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works and Housing Government Tenders Directorate

Law 51/89/central

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation through the Government Tenders Directorate/ Ministry of Public Works and Housing is soliciting technical and financial proposals from U.S. consulting engineering firms in association with Jordanian consultants for technical and economic feasibility study and final design of the upgrading and expansion of the wastewater stabilisation pond system at As-Samra.

As Samra waste stabilisation pond (WSP) complex is located 40 kilometres north-east of Amman. It treats the sewage of about half the population of Jordan, from those parts of the great Amman Municipality, Zarqa, Russeifa and other smaller communities. The ponds are designed in three parallel trains. In each train there are two anaerobic ponds, four facultative ponds and four maturation ponds. The objectives of this study are: to review the design and the operating results of the WSP system, to assess the environmental effects of the system, to recommend and design improvements to increase the efficiency of the existing ponds and to design additional treatment capacity to serve the needs of the present and future connected area to the year 2005. USAID/Jordan will finance the required study under TSFS V Project (278-0266).

Potential U.S. consulting firms associated with Jordanian consultants, may obtain the terms of reference from Mr. Abraham Grayson, Chief Engineer AID/W, ANE, PO/ENGR, Room No. 3321A, Telephone No. (202)647-8094, Washington D.C., 20523, or from the Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan, Tel.: 680100.

The technical and the financial proposals shall be submitted to the Director, Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, P.O. Box 1220, Amman, Jordan, Tel.: 668481, Telex 21944 MPW JO. Submittal and proposals shall not be later than 13:30 of Saturday, January 6, 1990.

Director/ Government Tenders Directorate
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Eng. Salem Qudah



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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Land mine explodes in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — A land mine exploded Friday in Anan town in South Lebanon, wounding a man in a civilian car, military sources said. They said the man was a passenger in the car. They did not disclose his nationality or condition.

Israelis protest heart transplant

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli soldier killed by Arab guerrillas was buried Friday while his heart continued to beat in the chest of a Palestinian as the result of a transplant that touched off sharp controversy. Several right-wing Israeli groups protested the heart donation as a reward for violence, and Arabic media virtually ignored the story with some Palestinians dismissing the transplant as a propaganda exercise. There was also controversy over the publication of the names of those involved in the operation, with one hospital announcing it would not provide any more organs for transplants until secrecy was assured by law. The heart was removed from Sgt. Ze'ev Traum, after he died Wednesday night of a head wound suffered when Arab guerrillas raked his jeep with 28 rounds of automatic gunfire in the occupied Gaza Strip. A second soldier also was killed. Traum's heart was a gift of life to Hanna Khader, a former hotel manager from the Arab sector of East Jerusalem. The heart was flown by army helicopter from Soroka Hospital in Beersheba to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem at midnight Wednesday night and the 4-hour transplant was immediately performed.

Morocco reports new Polisario attack

RABAT (R) — Morocco said Polisario guerrillas launched a fresh large-scale attack Thursday, their fourth in five weeks after a year-long lull in hostilities. A short Information Ministry statement carried by the Moroccan News Agency MAP said the dawn battle at the junction of Angala and Guelta-Zemmour sectors in the disputed Western Sahara was a major defeat for Polisario. Rabat said Moroccan troops killed at least 37 guerrillas and wounded many others. It said five Moroccan troops died. Earlier a Polisario communiqué telexed to Reuters in Algiers said the guerrillas fought a victorious four-hour battle and inflicted "considerable human and material damage." The guerrillas, fighting for independence in the former Spanish territory, broke a one-year halt in hostilities early last month and vowed to keep up attacks until Morocco moved towards a peaceful settlement of the 14-year-old conflict. Both sides accept a U.N.-sponsored referendum on the future of the Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco, but they differ on whether Moroccan troops should withdraw first.

Uganda blames Sudan for air raid

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda has accused Sudan of mounting an air raid on a northern town which killed three civilians. The Ugandan Defence Ministry said in a statement a Sudanese plane bombed Moyo, a small town 18 kilometres from the frontier, Wednesday. Several people were also wounded. But a Sudanese official visiting Kampala said Sudan had nothing to do with the air raid. "There is no logic for Sudan to do this when we have a peace delegation here," Brigadier Osman Hassan Ahmad, a member of Sudan's ruling military council, told reporters Wednesday night. The Defence Ministry statement warned Sudan to control its armed forces better. The air raid on Moyo was the latest in a series of violations of Ugandan territory, it said.

Sudan fires 56 doctors, diplomats

KHARTOUM (AP) — The military government in Sudan has fired 56 senior medical doctors and diplomats from the civil service "for public interest," informed sources have said. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that many of the names were persons with known leftist leanings. The military government, which took over power in a coup June 30, recently fired 37 diplomats, including eight ambassadors, as well as 15 doctors. The government, led by Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Beshir, has been purging official institutions from people it considers unsuitable. The sources said those fired were given no reason for their dismissal except that it was "for public interest." The government has not officially announced these dismissals. The sources said they believed that the doctors would be allowed to continue to operate their private clinics.

Chadians blocked from leaving Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad has said its nationals were being prevented from leaving Libya in the latest sign of new tension between the northern African neighbours. Chadians trying to leave Libya were routinely taken off airplanes and their belongings confiscated, Chadian radio said. The official media called this the "latest stone to be thrown into the pond of Chadian-Libyan relations." Chad and Libya signed an accord in August to settle a 15-year border conflict, but Chad says its troops have fought two battles with Libyan-backed Chadian mercenaries in the past two weeks. Chad also says it has killed more than 800 mercenaries of the Libyan-backed "Islamic Legion" in battles in the Sahara desert near the border with Sudan. Chad's official media, adopting a more hostile tone toward Libya than has been heard for months, called Libya's treatment of Chadian nationals "revolting" and said they were being subjected to all manner of "harassment and humiliation."

U.N. force attacked in Lebanon

OSLO (R) — Masked men shot at Norwegian U.N. peace-keeping forces in South Lebanon in an apparent reprisal for the killing of an Israeli-backed militiaman by a Norwegian officer, Norway's Defence Command said Thursday. Col. Gullow Gjeseth said there were no injuries in the shooting by the unidentified men late Wednesday near the village of Kawkada. "This must be a reaction of frustration and despair," he added. Earlier Wednesday a Norwegian officer shot and killed a member of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in a gun battle in the same area.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:05	Message from Iraq
18:25	A play by Shakespeare
19:10	Local programme
19:30	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Angus Et Lomps
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Allo Allo
21:10	Saturday Variety show
22:00	News in English
22:25	Feature film
PRAYER TIMES	
06:00	Fajr
06:02	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:42	Dhuhur
14:15	'Asr
16:40	Maghrib
18:40	Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Torrens Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 653326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Clouds increase gradually and rain falls in the northern and central parts of the country. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Basim Al Qaddumi	646024
Dr. Saleman Al Khayyat	791880
Dr. Kayed Halaqeh	793222
Firas pharmacy	661912
Faridoun pharmacy	778336
Naironh pharmacy	631635
Al Salam pharmacy	626772
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shameis pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Nabil Abu Al 'Ola	(-) 985238
Al Shams pharmacy	(-) 985238
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	690341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	892222
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
ZARQA:	
Dr. Salim Abu 'Adilah	(-) 985417
Khalifah pharmacy	(-) 985417
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hamza Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Matar, J. Amn.	642816
Abdullah Matar, J. Amn.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsat	664171/4
Shamsat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Munir Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abadi	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abadi	664164
Basim, Al-Munir	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman	77511/26
Azmy, Matar	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	60224050
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Al-Sina Hospital	(09)986732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)225585
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Rua Al Nafes Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-32200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-32200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)3220-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00	Dhahran, Dammam (RJ)
09:15	Agaba, Helinski (RJ)
09:30	New Delhi (RJ)
09:35	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:35	Dhahran, Dammam (RJ)
10:45	Dhahran, Dammam (RJ)
11:00	Cairo (RJ)
11:00	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:00	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ

King receives more birthday wishes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received congratulatory cables on his birthday from Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir, president of the Sudanese National Salvation Command Council, and Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida. From their cables the king wished King Hussein a happy and long life. Bashir praised King Hussein's pan-Arab stands and lauded Jordan for its support for the Sudanese government and people.

Youth Minister Awad Khleifat deputised for the King in a festival organised by the Royal Skiing Federation in cooperation with the Coast Guard Corps and a number of ministries and private sector institutions. The celebration, which was held in Aqaba, included boat racing and skiing.

At the end of the celebration, Khleifat presented token gifts to the participants. Also in Aqaba, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, opened a new premises of the Aqaba Sports and Cultural Club and a book exhibition. Princess Basma contributed JD 5,000 to the club. Princess Basma was accompanied by Dr. Khleifat, who also contributed JD 3,000 to the club.

The Princess and the accompanying delegation then toured Aqaba and opened a handicraft exhibition, organised by the Aqaba Charitable Women Association. She also visited the Aqaba Comprehensive Girls School, where she attended the graduation of the first two batches of girls. She distributed certificates to the graduates. She then called at the Al Thaghr Society for the handicapped and donated JD 3,000 to the centre.

In South Shomeli, the education department held a major celebration to mark the King's birthday. The celebration included a scout parade. Participants carried the Jordanian flag, King Hussein's photos and placards with congratulations to the King.



24-kilometre walk for a cause

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor, along with thousands of citizens, took part in the third annual charity march organised by the Society for Care of Neurological Patients and the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

At the end of the 24-kilometre march the Queen distributed awards to participants. Among those taking part in the march were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and Princess Majda and members of the diplomatic corps in Amman. (Petra photo)

Waste water seminar to discuss side-effects

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on "sustainability and environmental assessment of the use of treated waste water" will open in Amman Sunday. The three-day seminar will review working papers presented by Jordanian, Arab, and European scientists and agricultural experts on treatment methods and usage of waste water.

The papers will discuss the side-effects of using treated water on soil, methods of irrigation, the environmental dimension of using the water and economic feasibility of such use.

The discussions will also touch on the use of treated waste water in a number of Arab and industrial countries participating in the seminar.

The seminar is organised by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, and the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution.

Water has become a valuable

and precious commodity and cleaning used water and re-using it for agricultural and industrial purposes is a must for many countries, especially for those with restricted water-resources. Dumping untreated waste-water causes a hazard to the environment, as soil and underground water-reserves are getting polluted, according to a press release by the sponsors.

Different treatment-technologies are available that even heavily polluted waters can be cleaned and re-fed into rivers and lakes.

Jordan has constructed a chain of sewage plants throughout the country, and a waste-water network collects and transports the waste-water to the plants. Sixty million cubic metres of treated waste-water every year are channelled into the storage systems and used for irrigation in the major agricultural areas of Jordan. But more-treated water is still needed for agricultural land-reclamation in the badia areas.

Strategy for Arab labour markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Dr. Jamal Al Bedour proposed the adoption of a comprehensive strategy in Arab labour markets in light of foreign labour competition.

In a statement he made to Petra after chairing a joint meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Tunis to discuss a proposed Arab regional centre for the development of business management, Bedour said the Ministry of Labour undertook necessary measures to convene meetings, between delegations and officials from the ministries of labour, planning, and social development.

Amman Declaration pledges Arab support for 'Education for All'

By Suhair Obeldat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An "Amman Declaration" expressing Arab support for an international initiative to convene a world conference on "Education for All" and containing what amounts to be an Arab strategy for education in the next decades was the outcome of a four-day meeting here.

Summing up the deliberations and results of the Amman meeting, one of 12 regional consultations in the run-up to the world conference to be held in Thailand in March 1990, Education Minister Adnan Badran, chairman of the Amman gathering, told a press conference Thursday that the declaration emphasised that "education is a right for all" and called on world countries to cooperate in achieving this goal by overcoming obstacles, particularly those caused by poverty, war, racial discrimination, disasters and occupation, mainly in occupied Palestine.

According to Badran, the four international sponsor organisations — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank — were raising the slogan "Education for All" because there is a world crisis in the form of disintegration of the gains that the world countries achieved, (especially the developing countries in the late 70s and early 80s), and in the growth and development of compulsory and basic education, kindergartens, elementary education and illiteracy eradication.

In the Arab World, eight million children are deprived of education, concentrated in six or seven countries, according to UNDP Resident Representative Dr. Ali Atiga. "There are also those who attend school for two or three years then drop out, which results in six million illiterate adults in the Arab World," Atiga told reporters at Thursday's press conference.

"There is a need to change the spending priorities," he said. According to Atiga, the priority in Jordan is to develop human resources. The UNDP representatives said, "we (UNDP) have already contributed to many projects, like the establishment of institutions, like the Civil Aviation Authority, and the University of Jordan."

Atiga said he hoped that the Arab World would spearhead "a new phase of fighting illiteracy and child education."

UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North

Africa Richard Reid underlined the urgency of the need to address the education problem in the world. "There is a crisis about the quality of life for our species, the centre of which is education," he said. "Education took a universal direction, we cannot overlook the crisis, we have to solve it."

Lack of education has many ramifications according to Reid: Economic — illiterate people cannot be as economically productive as those who are literate. Technological — without education, one cannot see the opportunities that technology offers.

Environment — there are dangers to the earth and its atmosphere and only through education can people help to protect the environment.

Interdependence of the nations — "we will not know it unless we are educated."

An overriding message at the conference was that education is not only restricted to schools, but is attainable in all aspects of life, like the media, on-the-job training and religious leaders.

According to Wadia Haddad, executive secretary for the World Conference on Education for All, the aim of the initiative to discuss global education at "uniting world efforts to create a new political atmosphere committed

to the provision of basic education needs for all people, including children, youth and elderly, so as to enable them to lead productive lives and to be able to productively interact with their environment."

The second aim, said Haddad, is agreement on an international framework from which each country would derive its own suitable educational plans.

The third objective is the exchange of expertise between countries, institutions and organisations so as each country would have educational expertise.

"We hope that this initiative will result in a historical and unique process that will be a start for a fundamental change in the world, to provide the needs of basic education for 55 million children who are deprived of elementary education and about 900 million adults who do not have the basic skills," Haddad said.

"By the year 2000 we must eradicate illiteracy, by providing basic education for all children without racial, class or religious discrimination," according to Haddad.

The conference unanimously nominated His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to present the Arab view at the Thailand meeting.

Education workshop opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Adnan Badran opens Saturday a five-day regional Arab training workshop on educational supervision. Thirty educational supervisors from various Arab countries are expected to attend.

The course, organised by the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), will tackle issues such as



Adnan Badran

new concepts and trends in education supervision. Regional reports on means of developing educational supervision in the Arab World will also be discussed.

Population meeting urges unified Arab strategy

AMMAN (I.T.) — Jordan participated in meetings of the directors of population research and studies centres in the Arab World which concluded in Tunis Friday. The participants called for holding an Arab conference on population policies, defining spheres of joint Arab action to tackle population problems, and adopting a unified Arab position before a world conference on population expected to convene in 1994.

The conferees also called for establishing national committees on population to study the issue and help decision-makers map out population policies in light of demographic, health, social, and economic aspects.

They also called for entrusting population research and studies centres in the Arab World to carry out surveys so as to coordinate positions and exchange expertise in this field.

Head of the Population section at the Statistics Department Fahd Al Hyani, who represented Jordan at the meetings, presented a paper explaining Jordan's experience in the field of population research and studies and explained the Statistics Department's role in helping decision-makers plan development projects and define economic, social, and population developments in the country.

Majali, Mubarak discuss media ties

CAIRO (Petra) — Culture and Information Minister Nasouh Majali Thursday conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's best wishes to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In a statement to Petra, Majali said that Mubarak requested him to convey his congratulations to King Hussein on his birthday and on the recent parliamentary elections and the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan.

Majali said he briefed Mubarak on his talks with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif on enhancing information cooperation between the two countries and within the framework of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

He said Mubarak reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian areas and the efforts to find a just solution to the Middle East question. Mubarak and Majali in their meeting also discussed Jordan's resumption of parliamentary life.

Later Thursday, Majali was received by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmar Abdul Meguid. Majali also met Egyptian Minister of Culture Farouq Hosni and discussed with him the role of culture in shaping the society.

Majali and Hosni agreed to exchange visits by delegations from both countries to discuss scopes of bilateral cooperation.

Also Thursday, Majali visited Egypt's state-run radio and television stations in Ismailiah and



Nasouh Al Majali

was briefed by their directors on the role they play in serving local communities.

Majali expressed admiration of the local radio and television stations. He said, "they contribute to developing local communities and enhancing the sense of belonging."

Majali then visited the Suez Canal Corporation where he was briefed by its deputy director on its importance in promoting international transport and on its achievements since its expansion after the October 1973 war.

The corporation's deputy director said the canal "is one of the pillars of national economy in Egypt because it provides approximately \$1 billion a year."

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

OMANI NATIONAL DAY: His Majesty King Hussein Friday cabled congratulations to Sultan of Oman Qaboos Ibn Sa'id on the occasion of Oman's National Day anniversary. The King wished Sultan Qaboos good health and the Omani people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

KING CONGRATULATES KING HASSAN: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a congratulatory cable to King Hassan II of Morocco, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on Morocco's Independence Day. King Hussein wished the Moroccan monarch continued good health and happiness and the Moroccan people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ARAB SCOUTS END MEETING: The Arab Scouting Committee Thursday called for the formation of a pan-Arab committee to study amendments proposed to the Arab Scouts Organisation's statute and to look into means for developing Arab scouting legislation. At the conclusion of its three-day meetings in Amman, the committee set June 1990 as the date for the forthcoming session, which will be held in Cairo, and approved the 1988/1989 and 1989/1990 budget. The committee also agreed to hold the 19th Arab Scouting Conference in Amman in January. (Petra)

VEHICLE PLATE LAW: A royal decree has been issued endorsing a vehicle plate regulation issued in accordance with Traffic Law number 14 of 1984. This regulation replaces the new regulation number seven of 1989, which provides for amending the vehicle plate numbers. Accordingly the current plate numbering procedures will continue to be in force.

BASRA, FAO CONFERENCE: Greater Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat left Amman for Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi minister of public works and housing to participate in a three-day international seminar on rebuilding the cities of Basra and Fao due to convene Nov. 18. Suheimat will later visit Islamabad to participate in a three-day meeting of the Islamic Capitals and Cities Organisation board of directors due to convene Nov. 24.

SAPLING PRODUCTION: The director of the Forests and Soil Conservation Department, Gahaleb Abu Urabi, Thursday discussed with forest department officials the 1989 plan for sapling production. The department grew nine million saplings this year in three nurseries. The saplings will be distributed on Arbor Day to afforestation projects, pastures, Ministry of Education schools, national institutions and citizens. (Petra)

NEW LAND REGISTRATION BRANCH: The Land and Survey Department Thursday decided to establish a new land registration branch in Russefeh to handle and process all applications by residents of Atal Russefeh, Wadi Al Ush, Wadi Al Qitar, Qatana and Madanah areas. The new branch will open Saturday. (Petra)

PLASTIC ART EXHIBITION: The secretary general of the Jordan Plastic Artists Association Thursday opened at Alla Art gallery an art exhibition of two Jordanian artists, Sana Bourini and Abcer Abu Joudh. The exhibition includes 18 plates depicting Jordanian rural areas and the various aspects of social life in Jordan. (Petra)

PAKISTANI ENVOY SAYS GOODBYE: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Thursday received the outgoing Pakistani ambassador to Jordan, and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation concerning parliamentary affairs. The ambassador called at the Parliament to bid farewell to Lawzi. Also Thursday Public Security Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuhed received the Pakistani ambassador. (Petra)

ODD PERFORMANCE: On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, presents the famous Iraqi oud virtuoso Munir Bashir in a recital entitled "Improvised Meditations", at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, 1989 at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddouzi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Sana Bourini and Abcer Abu Joudh at Alla Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.
- * A photographic exhibition on Amman at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- * A film entitled "A Tale of Two Cities" at the British Council — 5:30 p.m.

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Jordan Times

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Not just any education

THE regional Arab conference on Education for All which ended its meeting Thursday on a promising note has successfully and eloquently drafted a declaration already dubbed as the "Amman Declaration" on Education for All. The Amman Declaration will of course serve as one of the many foundations being earnestly worked out in preparation for the World Conference on Education for All scheduled to take place in Thailand next March. Of course all mankind takes comfort from this dedicated international effort to eradicate illiteracy from all corners of the world especially from those most adversely affected by a high rate of illiteracy. The Arab World is unfortunately among the regions of the underdeveloped world where illiteracy is still rampant. The organic link between education and development is too clearly established to require further elaboration. In the final analysis, what separates the developed from the underdeveloped is not natural resources but the level of education attained by the two.

However what worries many in this context is this concentration on the element of "education" per se in a manner devoid of any reference to the "right kind" of education. What the underdeveloped world certainly needs in this age of advanced knowledge is not just any education but the right "right kind" of education. It is axiomatic that improper education or faulty educational systems can be just as damaging as no education at all. The so-called developing countries have been a victim for so long of inappropriate educational systems that in turn attributed to the perpetuation of their underdevelopment. When countries maintain educational systems that belong to a by-gone era, that is a prescription for the continuation of their backwardness both intellectually and materially. That is why one would have thought that instead of this emphasis on education as such there would have been more concentration on the type of education, a progressive and forward-looking one. The underdeveloped nations need to introduce major innovations into their educational systems much more than they need "any" education. For only through the accumulative effects of contemporary and progressive education can the problem of illiteracy, both in the strict and liberal senses, be resolved once and for all.

Accordingly the organisers of the World Conference on Education for All, especially the United Nations agencies which are sponsoring the March conference, are called upon to take such points into consideration when they embark on their giant crusade to eradicate illiteracy from the four corners of the world. Without such considerations, their endeavours would not only be incomplete but dangerous as well.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday said parliament members are holding consultations at present on means to tackle the various problems facing the Kingdom. This is a natural phenomenon in view of the situation in the country and as preparations are going ahead for the formal opening by His Majesty King Hussein of the new House of Parliament with a speech from throne in which he will define the government's programme and provide guidelines for the legislative council, the paper noted. It said that the coming stage should usher in a new era of close cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in the country in the best interest of the Jordanian people. The paper said the current consultations among the deputies is something natural at this stage, and should continue prior to the formal meeting of parliament where all the eyes will be focused on the deliberations and on the way the deputies will tackle the current issues.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments on the cool reception accorded to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington in view of his attitude towards the Middle East peace and the Baker five-point plan for a settlement. Mahmoud Rimawi says if reports about such cool reception were true one would naturally expect Washington now to be true to the principles in which the American people believe and embark on meaningful action designed to bring about peace. One would expect Washington to refrain from taking advantage of its right at the U.N. Security Council where it has been vetoing all resolutions condemning Israel's criminal actions in the occupied Arab territories, the writer continues. He says that the principle of land for peace and not elections in exchange for peace should be adopted; and the United States should explicitly declare its intentions about a comprehensive peace and its acceptance of the projected international conference to reach a final settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. The writer says one cannot believe in any of the United States actions unless and until it takes such constructive steps.

Al Dustour daily commented on Shamir's visit to the United States where he discussed the U.S.-sponsored five point-plan to initiate Palestinian Israeli talks. The paper said that following a series of meetings in Washington, the two sides failed to reach substantive results and failed to end their differences over the plan. The meetings proved that Shamir is more adamant and still adhering to his position undaunted by any pressure or any opposition even from Israel's strongest ally, the paper noted. Therefore, the paper said, the Baker plan could well be considered as dead, and one could regard the initiative as futile as all previous attempts to find a solution based on United States standard. Thus, the paper said, one can conclude that another peace opportunity has been lost, thanks to Shamir's adamant stand and Washington's infirm attitude towards the Jewish state which totally disregards the world community's principles and standards.

Common threads in uprisings that forced changes

What sparks in the huge popular uprisings that topple governments or force reforms? Will there be more of them in the 1990s? In this report, The Associated Press looks at "people power" uprisings in the past 10 years, and some common threads among them.

By Susan Ruel

NEW YORK — In a little more than a decade, uprisings have brought down the shah of Iran, chased Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from office and forced South Korea's authoritarian leadership to accept democratic elections.

Hundreds of thousands of East Germans have marched to demand reforms in the past few months, forcing a shakeup in the Communist leadership, the opening of borders and a promise of free elections. And in the past two years, demonstrations in China and Burma shook those countries' governments before they were bloodily suppressed.

Such "people power" events have featured surging forces that brought sudden change, sometimes even surprising the participants. They contrast sharply with the measured, careful steps that brought democracy and reforms in some nations of East Europe and South America, and revolutions, like that in Nicaragua, growing out of civil wars.

Similar threads run through many of the "people power" outbreaks. They tended to come at times of rapid economic modernization, increased contact with outside democratic ideas and slight tick upward in the standard of living — an improvement that

whetted the public's appetite for even more progress, at a pace faster than existing governments could allow.

They often have coincided, too, with uncertainty about a nation's future leadership, allegations of government corruption, the presence of charismatic leaders or official indecision at crucial moments. They have involved uncharacteristic unity among students, professionals and blue-collar citizens.

Some of the rebellions also involved fervent criticism of foreign nations with influence over leaders fighting to stay in power. Strong anti-American sentiment erupted in Iran and South Korea, and discontent in East Europe earlier this decade led to calls for an end to Soviet domination. Now, reform movements in some East Bloc nations try to simulate changes in the Soviet Union ushered in by Mikhail Gorbachev.

What about the 1990s?

Scholars will watch to see if countries have similar outbreaks in the 1990s. But some experts say that much of what happened in countries as diverse as Iran in 1979, the Philippines in 1986 and South Korea in 1987 was unique to those nations, and that these events cannot be used to predict developments elsewhere.

They say conditions that bring thousands into the streets in one country may have little effect elsewhere, or simply could encourage gradual change rather than a sudden explosion.

Also, participants in "people power" revolts may not seek democracy in the Western sense, nor get the reforms they want over the long term. Iranian militants trying to overthrow Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi wanted a strict Islamic state, rather than a Western-style democracy. In South Korea, the opposition has accused the government of continuing to hold political prisoners and dragging its feet on further reforms.

Jurgen Domes, a West German political scientist and China specialist, says an improved economic and political climate often helps spawn revolution.

"Revolution is started and developed during a time of comparative relaxation," Domes said.

"Marcos at least allowed elections... the shah loosened the script in Iran. In China, a certain amount of relaxation, relatively speaking, had been in effect since early 1983," said Domes, chairman of the political science department at the Saar University in Saarbrücken. East Germany's huge demonstrations this year followed major improvements in political conditions elsewhere in Soviet-aligned East Europe, events watched closely by East Germans.

Shireen Hunter, deputy director of the Middle East programme at the Centre for Strategic and

International Studies in Washington, described the loosening of political constraints in Iran as "a slight opening, as when the window is opened on what was an oppressive atmosphere, like the air before a storm."

Rapid modernization and contact with the West also can help precipitate a revolution, especially when large numbers of students acquire democratic or religious ideas abroad.

South Korea's revolt came as the world praised its "economic miracle," and Iran's came as the shah tried to goad a feudal economy into the 20th century.

South Koreans took to the streets in the spring of 1987 and wrung from Chun the concession of a direct election, rather than a choice by the electoral college that Chun controlled. Chun's hand-picked successor, Roh Tae-woo, defeated two opposition leaders, Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-sam, when they split the opposition vote.

Corruption fuels revolts

Claims of corruption also fuel revolutionary movements. Demonstrators denounced corruption in Iran, China, South Korea and the Philippines.

Jack Bresnan, a senior research fellow at Columbia's East Asian Institute and a specialist on the Philippines, added that a succession problem is often at the root of turmoil — from who would follow the ailing shah, Marcos, and paramount Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, to who would succeed President Chun-Doo-

Hwan of South Korea when his term ended in 1988. Unrest this fall in East Germany coincided with signs that ailing Communist Party leader Erich Honecker would be replaced soon.

Pro-democracy protests erupted in Rangoon after 78-year-old Burmese leader Ne Win retired in 1988. He had ruled the once prosperous nation since 1962.

Charismatic leaders also help spur a revolutionary movement. The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini became the titan of Iranian revolution; the widow Corazon Aquino provided a symbol for resistance to Marcos in the Philippines. Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-sam became pivotal in South Korea, and student leaders moved to the forefront of unrest this year in China.

The swiftness and strength of government responses to "people power" outbreaks seem to be a factor in whether they succeed. In Burma, troops gunned down hundreds of protesters. In Beijing, soldiers killed hundreds and perhaps thousands of people when the military moved to crush the pro-democracy movement.

Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement in Poland in 1981 had the potential to become the first "people power" uprising in East Europe, but was put down by martial law. The authorities' actions slowed Poland's move toward democracy, but major political liberalisations came this year.

But the shah of Iran fled the country in the face of an uprising

against him, leaving a weak, indecisive government to carry on. Marcos was torn between his desire to quickly put down the Philippine demonstrations and warnings from the United States not to fire on opponents. In South Korea, Chun pondered whether to call in the army against protesters, fearful of losing the host role for the 1988 summer Olympics and international support. East German street protests mounted after the Communist government wavered on whether to allow citizens to emigrate and whether to permit demonstrations.

Domes and some other experts warn that the similarities are still limited among events in Iran, the Philippines, South Korea and China.

The political systems overthrown were different, Domes said. While land reform measures early in Marcos' rule were dramatic, by the end his government had become essentially conservative. The shah's reign, in contrast, aimed at rapid development of the country. East Germany was an orthodox Communist state.

Most Filipino soldiers stayed on the sidelines during the revolution, and only some Iranian army units supported the shah to the end. The Chinese army ultimately stood with the Communist Party and put down the seven-week pro-democracy drive.

In addition, the Philippines had a tradition of democratic elections; South Korea, Iran, Burma and China did not.

Quandt says occupation affects U.S.-Israeli ties

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — Israel's "perpetual occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, "with all that it entails, cannot go on without it ultimately affecting the quality of the U.S.-Israeli relationship," says a former U.S. official who participated in the Camp David negotiations.

William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who served on the National Security Council from 1977 to 1979, said American support of Israel is firmly based on the perception of a shared history and shared values. "If the main perception Americans have of Israel is soldiers going in and beating up teenagers, ultimately it's going to sink into the American conscience that 'something has changed' in Israel. The moral commitment is going to wane whether we want it or not... And the United States ought to be saying that to Israelis as an act of friendship."

Quandt, a guest lecturer at a series of seminars on the Middle East sponsored by the Middle East Institute and the Smithsonian Institution, spent the summer in Jerusalem where he met with Jewish and Arab Israelis and Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The longer the intifada goes on, the greater the pressure there is to take a tougher line, because from the inside there is a growing militancy in the occupied territories on the part of both Israelis and Palestinians," Quandt observed.

"Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is going through about the same thing as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat with his hard-liners, and with the central committee of his party. Both leaderships are under pressure from hardliners who think they have already made too many concessions," said Quandt.

Statistics gathered by the West Bank Data Project in Jerusalem reveal that there are now 1.5 million Palestinians under Israeli control in the occupied territories and another 600,000 or more Palestinians who are Israeli citizens, Quandt noted.

In the short term, he said, "Israel cannot integrate 1.5 million angry Palestinians into Israeli society..." in the long term, and in the absence of a political settlement, "sometime within the next 20 years a near parity of Jews and Arabs living under Israeli control will develop."

"The way out has to be some kind of a political settlement that rediscovers political boundaries

in which Palestinians can run their own affairs, but within some kind of a secure economic framework," Quandt said.

"It's going to be a complicated negotiation, but I don't think the United States should take a hands-off position towards it. The question is now, is there any way to move this process forward?" Quandt said the often discussed concept of a Benelux model state would afford "separate political identities" without erecting partitions or restricting areas of residence.

The concept of Benelux nations, derived from the economic confederation of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg that was formed in 1947, has enabled three neighbouring small nations with differing traditions, national characters and problems to cooperate in trade and economic affairs to their mutual benefit.

Their central location and access to the sea made them prosperous trading nations. The Netherlands and Belgium have the highest population density of all Europe. All three have great numbers of foreign workers who bring both needed labour and social problems with them. These countries are not particularly rich in raw materials, but they have

productive economies which have provided standards of living and social welfare systems for their populations which are almost unmatched in the world.

Asked if there is any way for Israel to resolve its own internal dilemma, Quandt said participants in the peace process "cannot wait for a change in attitudes, which are very, very stubborn things, but must break the barrier on a political level, and maybe the attitudes will change."

"I can tell you that neither side has very warm feelings towards the other. You're not going to get Israelis or Arabs overcoming the biases, the prejudices that happen on both sides. You're not going to make peace by saying 'everybody has to love each other and then peace will break out...'"

"You make peace when people hate each other — because there's no better alternative. Peace agreements are contractual agreements made by governments and accepted by a population and then the attitudes begin to change."

"Egypt and Israel would never have made peace if we had waited for the two sides to have confidence, to like each other, to engage in trade, and tourism and so on," Quandt said — U.S. Information Agency.

Can NATO cope with new Europe?

By Jan Reitenberg

IS NATO the proper tool for the elaboration of a common Western policy towards changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe?

Can a defence alliance whose priority task during the past forty years has been to counter the Warsaw Pact's military threat to Western Europe cope with the size of tasks facing Europe today?

IS NATO more than just the security policy link between Western Europe and America? In view of the changing roles of the two superpowers in a "European house" stretching from the Atlantic to the Urals will NATO have to fundamentally alter its character to ensure its continued existence in the 21st century?

Questions like this preoccupy the minds of policymakers at the alliance headquarters in Brussels to a much greater extent than initially meets the eye.

The "overall concept" adopted during the NATO summit was primarily intended as a basis for the development of informed political opinion. It was planned as more than just a deferral of the discussion on the modernisation of short-range weapons.

But how much of this was realised by the public in the sixteen alliance member states? What has taken place in Eastern Europe since the NATO summit extends far beyond the formulas set forth in the "overall concept."

History is being made much faster in reality than in the conceptual constructs of the theoreticians in Brussels, Washington, Bonn, Paris or London.

They appear to be bogged down in a dilemma between the priority of military and strategic considerations and the realisation that convincing responses are needed to the rapid pace of

change to make sure that the alliance's political objectives remain credible.

Today, no NATO general secretary would describe the alliance's raison d'être by referring to Lord Ismay's remark that it serves to "keep the Russians out of Europe, the Americans in and the Germans under control."

The military premises by and large retain their validity. However, if the most important arms control negotiations — the Vienna conference on stability between East and West, and to be successful they must provide a changing Europe with a basis for its future security policy and drop the scenarios of mutual threat devised by NATO and the Warsaw Pact during the decades of the Cold War.

Thinking in the familiar terms of arms categories and a military translation into reality of mutual ideologies must be overcome.

"The military war: 'Do not cast aside the familiar orders of magnitude, otherwise you will undermine the justification of our existence!'"

NATO general secretary, Manfred Wörner, also untiringly warns against any debilitation of the alliance consensus and against overrating the real implications of Gorbachev's policies.

He reminds the West that credible defence must remain the most important basis of a changing all-European security concept.

It almost looks as if he is shrinking back from the realisation of the "overall concept," since this would change the true purpose of NATO and could nurture false hopes on the part of the Germans.

Further, a credible nuclear deterrence must be retained. NATO's military experts have pointed out that although the Soviet Union has started to scale down its tank superiority this will ultimately result in a smaller but more modern and more powerful army.

The military cannot be expected to give political answers or to act as mediators in a process of change.

"In the eyes of most members of the military NATO means nuclear weapons and alliance scenarios," said one American recently.

Excessive self-congratulation on alliance successes is not what is needed. Events in Eastern Europe since Gorbachev came to power are not just the result of resolution shown by the West, even though this was a major factor.

They have primarily resulted from social and humanitarian changes initiated by the CSCE process.

Through the CSCE the West and the neutral states have been able to free themselves from the straitjacket of a rigidly demarcated sphere of influence which has characterised post-war Soviet policy without upsetting the military balance of power.

Without this major success the Vienna negotiations would not have been possible and Gorbachev would not have been able to pursue his course of reform.

NATO is above all a forum for political discussion between the United States and its European alliance partners. It will only be able to successfully help shape changes in Europe in cooperation with other European institutions such as the European Community, the Western European Union (WEU), the framework of Franco-German cooperation, and the CSCE.

Furthermore, it will no longer be the primary tool of America's European policy. The Western Europeans have come of age and their influence now carries appreciable weight.

The Federal Republic of Germany also assumes a key role as a major buttress of the alliance. This makes the German Question a leading item on the agenda.

Many politicians in the alliance have realised that it is high time to place greater emphasis on Europe's significance.

Hesitation to engage in an active policy is connected to a considerable degree with the unresolved German Question.

A decisive aspect for the future is whether it can be integrated into existing structures.

The appropriate response is not an awesome underestimation of what has been happening in the other German state since the mass exodus from the GDR began and the first signs of a possible change there became apparent.

What is needed is the creation of a new framework for the security of the two alliance systems with the help of the arms reduction talks in Vienna in order to prevent destabilisation in Europe.

This can only take place with the involvement of the United States and Canada, which are bound to this objective by their signatures to the Helsinki final act.

Security at a reduced level of armament remains a major prerequisite to a solution of the political problems which have remained unresolved since the European continent was divided.

The German Question may then be defused and its solution achieved in an all-European framework. — Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland.

Satellites et image numérique

Quand les chiffres se mêlent de photographie

L'image spatiale, sans être complètement banalisée, fait maintenant partie de notre environnement. Plus personne n'est surpris par les images METEOSAT, qui expliquent de façon lumineuse les commentaires parfois obscurs de nos météorologues. Et pourtant, sait-on qu'à l'exception des

La technique d'acquisition à distance et de traitement de ce type d'images est appelée **Télédétection spatiale**. Longtemps, la diffusion des images spatiales numériques, de sources exclusivement américaine ou soviétique, est restée relativement confidentielle. Mais avec l'arrivée du satellite SPOT pour l'Observation de la Terre, SPOT, en 1986, la télédétection a évolué vers un véritable marché commercial très ouvert. Conçu par le CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) et réalisé par la France, en association avec 2 partenaires européens (Belgique et Suède), SPOT 1 a été lancé il y a 4 ans. Depuis, il a fonctionné, au-delà des espérances les plus optimistes, transmettant plus d'un million d'images de notre planète et il s'est octroyé la 1ère place sur le marché international de la Télédétection, menant fin au quasi-monopole du satellite américain LANDSAT.

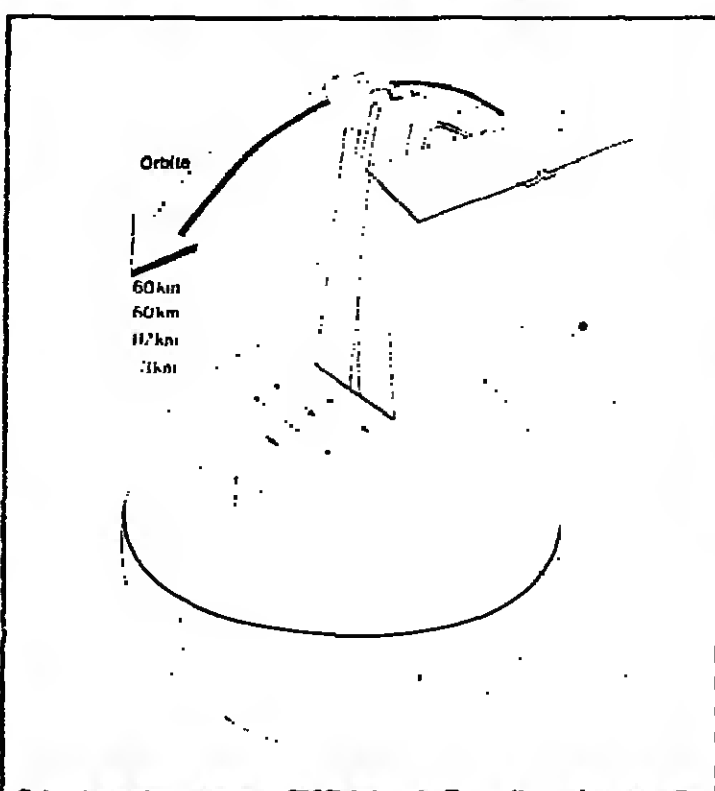
Les qualités techniques de SPOT et la politique offensive de marketing de la société SPOT IMAGE ont permis d'imposer l'imagerie spatiale comme outil privilégié pour la gestion globale des ressources et la protection de l'environnement. SPOT IMAGE fait partie d'un dynamisme unique dans ce domaine, plus des 3/4 des chiffres d'affaires (15 millions de dollars en 1988) est réalisé à l'étranger, dont 14 sur le seul continent Nord-Américain. Le marché potentiel est effectivement très vaste et sans parler des applications militaires, les applications civiles sont extrêmement nombreuses. Tout d'abord, la cartographie: moins de 50% des terres émergées du globe sont cartographiées à l'échelle 1:500000-1:1000000 et les images SPOT se sont montrées parfaitement adaptées pour réaliser ce type de produit. Ceci est fondamental pour les pays en voie de développement, qui peuvent ainsi acquérir leurs données cartographiques

images ramenées des vols habités, une image spatiale n'est pas une simple photographie mais une image numérique, c'est-à-dire une série impressionnante de données transmises par un satellite et qui peuvent être chiffrées, ensuite "traduites" en une image photographique?

10m. Une scène P est donc constituée d'environ 6000x6000, soit 36 millions de pixels. Ce qui correspond, en terme d'information, à un gros dictionnaire encyclopédique de 1500 pages! Le 2ème mode est le mode multispectral (XS). La sensibilité des capteurs est découpée en 3 parties (dites bandes spectrales ou canaux) ayant chacune sa spécificité. Par exemple, la bande du proche infrarouge est particulièrement intéressante pour les études de végétation (évolution, détection de maladies). Il y a donc en fait 3 images et théoriquement 3 fois plus de pixels. Pour éviter un trop grand nombre d'informations, les pixels sont regroupés, mais la résolution n'est plus alors que de 20m.

Plus concrètement, prenons une scène P et affectons à chacun de ses pixels une teinte allant, selon sa valeur, du noir total au blanc absolu. Le résultat sera une image ayant l'apparence d'une photo noir et blanc. De même, avec une image XS, les valeurs des pixels peuvent être transformées en différents tons de bleu, vert et rouge (les 3 couleurs fondamentales). La combinaison des 3 canaux fournit une superbe image aux couleurs assez inhabituelles.

Les images brutes, reçues du satellite, sont difficilement utilisables directement. Elles nécessitent des corrections, d'une part, afin d'améliorer la qualité et, d'autre part, afin de les rendre exactes du point de vue cartographique. D'autres traitements, à caractère thématique, sont également nécessaires selon le type d'application. Tous ces traitements exigent une grande puissance de calcul, étant donné le très grand nombre d'informations d'une simple image. L'image spatiale est donc indissociable des systèmes de traitement d'images, qui comportent en plus de l'ordinateur et de ses périphériques classiques, une console de visualisation et un résinateur d'images, permettant le passage du numérique au photographique. La Jordanie est présente sur ce créneau, puisque le Centre géographique royal en particulier utilise depuis près d'un an un système Pericor, conçu par la société MS21 (Matra-Système Imagerie & Informatique).



Grâce à ses deux capteurs, SPOT balaye la Terre d'un ruban sans fin.

Intéressant pour étudier des phénomènes locaux à évolution rapide comme le développement des marées noires ou des incendies de forêt. Mais c'est sur le plan du marketing et des services que SPOT, par le biais de la société SPOT IMAGE, a parfaitement atteint ses objectifs. Cette société fait l'interface entre le client et la haute technologie de SPOT. Une très grande variété de services est offerte: depuis la fourniture de scènes (format, niveau de correction et support choisis par le client), à la gestion des demandes de programmation des prises de vues, en passant par la vente d'images compressées au format, la collection SPOT ART. Sur un plan plus local, ce peut être l'établissement de contrats d'acquisition et de distribution locale d'images ou encore la fourniture des données techniques nécessaires à mise en oeuvre d'une

EN BREF

Otages. Une organisation clandestine a revendiqué mercredi soir l'enlèvement à Beyrouth d'une Américaine et de deux Allemands de l'Ouest, dont un enfant de 7 ans. Dans un communiqué, remis à la presse, "l'Organisation de la juste vengeance", justifie le rapt "en raison de leurs activités au Liban", sans plus de précision. Par ailleurs, le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (CICR) a annoncé cette semaine qu'il envisageait de suspendre prochainement ses activités si aucune solution n'est trouvée au problème de ses deux médecins, enlevés il y a plus d'un mois à Saïda. L'enlèvement de mercredi porte à 20 le nombre d'Occidentaux retenus en otages au Liban.

Appel. En voyage à Washington, Lech Walesa, président du syndicat polonais Solidarnosc, a renouvelé mercredi ses appels aux investisseurs américains dans son pays pour sauver une économie, selon lui "au bord de la catastrophe". Dans un discours devant les deux Chambres du Congrès, le prix Nobel de la Paix s'est félicité du vote, survenu la veille au Sénat, déboulonnant 657 millions de dollars d'aide à la Pologne. Mais, a-t-il souligné, "nous ne vous demandons pas la charité ou des démonstrations de philanthropie. Nous voudrions voir notre pays traité comme un partenaire et un ami."

Week-end. L'Allemagne de l'Ouest se prépare à accueillir un nouveau déferlement de millions de visiteurs est-allemands ce week-end, en assoupissant notamment dans de nombreuses villes les horaires de fermeture des magasins. A Berlin-Ouest, les autorités envisagent même de modifier les dates des vacances scolaires de Noël afin d'éviter l'engorgement des routes de transit vers la RFA. Près d'un Allemand de l'Est sur deux ayant obtenu un visa, Bonn s'attend en effet à un afflux record de "touristes" venus de RDA, à la fin de l'année. Convaincre, à tort ou à raison, que la coupure en deux de Berlin n'a d'ores et déjà plus de sens, une agence allemande vient très sérieusement de proposer la vente aux enchères du mur...

Sommet. A l'invitation de la France, les douze pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) se réunissent aujourd'hui à Paris pour évoquer l'évolution des pays de l'Est. Ce sommet extraordinaire a pour objectif de préserver la cohésion de la CEE et de faire entendre la voix de l'Europe avant la rencontre Gorbachev-Bush, les 2 et 3 décembre à Malte, sur l'avenir du Vieux Continent. Bien que Soviétiques et Américains aient catégoriquement repoussé l'idée que ce tête-à-tête puisse se transformer en un nouveau Yalta, la plupart des observateurs estiment que les situations en RDA, en Hongrie, mais aussi en Bulgarie occuperont une large place dans les discussions entre les deux superpuissances.

Moderation. Au lendemain de la victoire de son mouvement aux élections constituantes en Namibie, le président de l'Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain (SWAPO), a lancé mercredi un message de modération aux Namibiens et à la communauté internationale. Bien que la SWAPO détienne la majorité absolue dans l'Assemblée chargée de rédiger la Constitution du futur Etat indépendant, Sam Nujoma a invité ses adversaires à "coopérer" avec son organisation. Il a notamment déclaré que la SWAPO n'imposerait pas un système de parti unique contre la volonté populaire exprimée "démocratiquement lors d'élections".

Guérilla. Près de 2.000 personnes auraient été tuées ou blessées depuis le début de l'offensive, lancée samedi, par la guérilla d'extrême-gauche dans la capitale du Salvador. Mercredi, l'armée a entamé une meurtrière contre-offensive terrestre et aérienne dans les quartiers populaires à forte densité où s'est retranchée la guérilla.

Béatitudes. Les salariés japonais ont pris en moyenne 6 jours de vacances d'été cette année, selon une enquête publiée jeudi par le principal syndicat nippon. En 1988, les salariés japonais ont eu droit à jours de congés payés, contre 19 pour les Américains, 23 pour les Britanniques, 26 pour les Français et 29 pour les Allemands de l'Ouest.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA
Aicha; Can't buy my love. Vendredi 24: Mort à Venise; Salvador; Near dark; Another time, another place; A matter of life or death. Films en version originale. Tél: 603901. Route de l'Université de Jordanie, à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem puis première à gauche, 300 m.

CONFERENCES
A Tale of two cities, de Thomas Ralph, avec Dirk Bogarde, (1958). Chronique d'une certaine France sous la Terreur. Bâtiment conseil, samedi 18 novembre à 17h30 (en anglais).

Si Versailles m'était conté, de Sacha Guitry, avec Bourvil, Jean Marais et Orson Welles (1953). Les grandes heures du château de Versailles à travers les siècles. Centre culturel français, mercredi 22 novembre à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Bird, de Clint Eastwood, avec Forest Whitaker et Diane Venora (1988). La vie du grand jazziste Charlie Parker, illustrée par une excellente bande sonore des grands moments de Monsieur "Bird". Centre américain, dimanche 19 novembre à 18h00.

TELEVISION
Silence, on tourne. 50 années de cinéma français, racontées par Jean-Pierre Maury et Rahab Badaro et illustrées par de nombreux extraits de films. JTV, dimanche 19 novembre à 19h15.

La vie en mille, de Mario Caiano, d'après le roman de Boileau-Narcejac, avec Laurence Guérrieri, Laura Lattuada et Roger Mirmont. Dans la voiture qui les ramène à leur domicile, un homme et son épouse se disputent violemment. A tel point, qu'en changeant une roue crevée, le mari décide de ne pas rester les boules et de laisser sa femme repartir seule. Atteignant un garage avant la catastrophe, elle obtient de son époux, qu'il reconnaisse par écrit sa tentative de meurtre... JTV, vendredi 24 novembre à 17h15.

A l'affiche du Nijoum depuis dimanche

Batman: chauve-souris qui peut

L'homme-chauve-souris, qui vole de succès en succès depuis sa sortie aux Etats-Unis fin août, sort ses griffes au Nijoum à Amman. Batman a d'ores et déjà conquis les Jordaniens. Malgré l'absence de suspense et une action, qui tarde à déployer ses ailes.

Pascal Azzam est content. Propriétaire du Nijoum depuis un mois, il s'offre une inauguration en fanfare. Moins d'un trimestre après sa sortie aux Etats-Unis, Batman vole sur l'écran de son cinéma. "C'était la condition que nous avions mise au contrat que nous avions signé avec la compagnie Warner", précise-t-il. Le film est là. Et le succès garanti. Depuis dimanche, les Jordaniens se bécotaient pour voir à l'œuvre le personnage créé en 1939 par le dessinateur américain Bob Kane, et incarné à l'écran par Michael Keaton. Et pourtant, personne ne se conserve un fond de sa mémoire, comme les Américains, le souvenir des deux

chauve-souris.

Pourquoi pas. A condition d'avoir un scénario bien ficelé et un bon suspense. Or, le Batman de Tim Burton brille par la mollesse de l'un et l'absence de l'autre. Les ingrédients sont pourtant là: des policiers glauques et vengés à la péjorative, un charmant photographe (Kim Basinger), qui croit à l'existence de ce justicier hors pair au point d'écouter amoureux; des décors grandioses... Mais le film manque d'action.

A tel point d'ailleurs, que la vraie vedette de Batman se révèle être son pire ennemi: Jack Napier, alias le Joker, alias Jack Nicholson. C'est lui qu'on voit le plus, et qui fait l'histoire. Assassin des parents de Bruce Wayne, à la quelque chose du sorcier métaphysique. Quand Batman croit s'en être débarrassé en le jetant dans une cuve d'acide, le resurgit, certes défiguré et mutilé d'un bras, certes vulgaire, tant il révèle le sadisme romantique du film de Tim Burton. Un film à budget énorme, qui en moins de trois semaines de distribution aux Etats-Unis affichait déjà 250 millions de dollars de recettes et qui restera dans le livre des records commerciaux plutôt que dans celui des chefs-d'œuvre.

Alain Resnais.

Batman, au Nijoum. Séances à 18h30, 20h30, 22h30. Tél: 675371.

Parlement

Première

réunion

le 27 novembre

La Chambre des Représentants et le Sénat jordaniens se réuniront le 27 novembre, ont indiqué mardi les médias jordaniens. Le chef de l'Etat a annoncé, en annonçant la Constitution du ruyana, la séance plénière sera inaugurée par un discours du roi Hussein. La convocation du Parlement marquera également l'ouverture de la session ordinaire de l'Assemblée nationale, pour une durée de quatre mois. Les quatre-vingts députés, élus au début du mois à l'issue des premières élections législatives organisées dans le pays depuis vingt-deux ans, devront le jour-même nommer leur président pour les quatre années à venir.

Aucune précision n'a cependant été donnée sur l'attitude du souverain haïtien à l'égard de la Chambre Haute. Le chef de l'Etat avait annoncé, il y a une semaine, que le nombre des sénateurs serait porté de trente à quarante. Nommé par le roi, le nouveau Sénat pourrait être désigné avant le 27 novembre. Dans le cas contraire, le Parlement tiendra sa session en présence du Sénat actuel.

En vertu de la Constitution de janvier 1952, le Parlement partage le pouvoir législatif avec le souverain. Il peut même, si une majorité de parlementaires le décide, s'opposer au veto royal sur les lois en discussion entre les deux Chambres. Députés et sénateurs sont par ailleurs appelés à exercer un contrôle sur les politiques budgétaires et étrangères du gouvernement.

L'Etat de Palestine a un an

La fête malgré la répression

Les Palestiniens des territoires occupés ont fêté en liesse mercredi le premier anniversaire de la proclamation de leur Etat indépendant. Malgré un couvre-feu quasi-total et en enterrant la 600e victime de la répression israélienne.

L'imposant dispositif militaire déployé par l'armée israélienne a rempli son office. Quelque 700.000 Palestiniens, soit la moitié des habitants des territoires occupés, ont été contraints de rester cloîtrés chez eux mercredi, jour anniversaire de la proclamation de l'Etat indépendant de Palestine. Seuls les habitants de Jérusalem-Est et de sa périphérie, du centre-ville de Gaza et des villages isolés de Cisjordanie, ont pu danser, chanter, lâcher des ballons et brandir une profusion de drapeaux palestiniens. En fin d'après-midi, dans la Ville Sainte, les fanfres de l'ordre ont dispersé et arrêté des groupes de jeunes en habit de fête.

Dans la bande de Gaza, sous couvre-feu quasi-total, l'armée a ramené la guerre des drapeaux mais a subi d'importants revers dans celle des ballons. Dès le début de la journée, dans les quelques quartiers du centre-ville de Gaza épargnés par les mesures de sécurité, enfants et soldats se sont livrés à une lutte sans merci pour quelques milliers de baudruches multicolores. Une course poursuite, qui s'est soldée par 18 manifestants blessés par les tirs des militaires d'occupation. Dans la bande de Gaza, un enfant de 12 ans a notamment été grièvement atteint par balle. La veille, un adolescent de 17 ans avait été tué près de Ramallah, portant à 600 le nombre des victimes de la répression israélienne depuis le déclenchement de l'intifada en décembre 1987.

Pour l'OLP, le premier anniversaire de l'Etat de Palestine a un goût amer. Un an après avoir reconnu le droit à l'existence d'Israël, tout en proclamant l'indépendance sur les territoires occupés, Yasser Arafat n'a pas obtenu ce qu'il était en droit d'attendre: l'engagement d'un réel processus de paix. Les opinions ont beau changer peu à peu, notamment en Occident, sur le droit des Palestiniens à disposer d'un pays, Israël refuse obstinément tout compromis. "Nous sommes aujourd'hui dans une impasse politique", a reconnu mercredi soir à Tunis Abou Yim. Le numéro deux de l'OLP a cependant ajouté que la contre-offensive israélienne n'était pas la seule. Les Américains et les Israéliens le sont aussi. Selon lui, le blocage est tel que les propositions du secrétaire d'Etat américain, James Baker, voire même le plan du président égyptien Hosni Mubarak en faveur de l'ouverture d'un dialogue entre Tel-Aviv et les Palestiniens, "aboutiront à rien".

Même son de cloche du côté de Yasser Arafat: le président du Comité exécutif de l'OLP a regretté que "le message de paix", qu'il a adressé il y a un an eût été "compréhensible par Israël" et "qu'il continue d'être ignoré par l'administration américaine". Washington se retrouve de fait dans une situation délicate, qui a illustré la prudence des déclarations faites à l'issue de la visite aux Etats-Unis d'Yitzhak Shamir. Après deux heures d'entretiens avec James Baker, le premier ministre israélien a lâché qu'il n'avait pas obtenu de "réponses claires" à ses exigences.

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Reversing \$1.06b deficit forecast

Omanis expect surplus in '89 budget

DUBAI (R) — Oman's economy this year will show the dramatic impact that a few dollars extra on the price of a barrel of oil can make to Gulf oil-producing states.

Oman officials and economists say they are looking forward to gross domestic product (GDP) growth of over five per cent in 1989, and predict that his year's forecast state budget deficit could be wiped out, or even end in a small surplus.

Next year's growth is as always highly dependent on external factors. "But, God willing, we anticipate that we are entering a period of stability," said a central bank official.

Oman's 1989 budget forecast a 407.6 million riyal (\$1.06 billion) deficit, based on a forecast average 1989 oil price of \$12.50 per barrel. The petroleum sector accounts for about 45 per cent of domestic economic activity.

But the generally unexpected firmer world oil price this year has led Oman officials to forecast an average \$16 a barrel for their oil, holding out the prospect of the first budget surplus for five years.

Figures just released by the central bank show 1988 GDP, calculated at constant prices to give a historically adjusted view

of economic progress, grew 5.7 per cent after declining 3.8 per cent in 1987.

However, due to a 21.8 per cent drop in Oman's oil price in 1988 over the year before, nominal domestic growth, which is calculated at current prices, fell 2.8 per cent.

But this year should see both real and nominal positive growth, which should make Omanis feel that much richer in overall terms, independent economists said.

A more stable economic environment after the oil price collapse and upheavals due to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s would be a boon to the government which is trying to formulate its next 1991-1995 five-year plan, the economists said.

Oman has particularly ambitious development plans for agriculture and fisheries which grew rapidly last year but which still account for only 4.6 per cent of the economy.

Oman's desire to create a more balanced economy is because it has few proven oil reserves compared with other Gulf states and,

unless further reserves are found, can produce at current rates for only another 20 years or so, the economists said.

Reserves are estimated at 4.3 billion barrels, compared with Saudi Arabia's 252 billion, for example.

A possible problem is the very strength of demand that is arising from growing consumer confidence, the economists said.

Overall inflation in Oman is running at a reasonably low three per cent but inflationary pressures could build, they added.

Private consumption is buoyant. Total consumption in 1988 rose 15.9 per cent but private consumption jumped 26.9 per cent and public consumption expenditure was held back to a rise of 4.6 per cent.

Oman's problem, like that of many oil-producing Gulf states, is that any pickup in domestic demand must almost all be matched by higher imports because the manufacturing base is not developed and cannot supply the required goods.

Not continuing measures to control inflation in Europe, Japan, and the United States should help by holding back imported inflation, a central bank official said.

An economist at an Oman bank also noted that the government was gradually breaking down wholesale and distribution monopolies in Oman, which had been able to set high prices.

Meanwhile, oil industry sources in the Gulf said Oman's crude oil production in the fourth quarter of this year is averaging about 620,000 barrels per day (b/d), slightly above the 600,000 level earlier in the year.

They said non-OPEC Oman was pushing up its output to boost oil revenues and production may continue to rise in 1990.

"The strategy to develop oil fields aims to achieve an overall output of a daily average of 620,000 b/d this year by taking into consideration economic feasibility of the fields," an unnamed oil official at Oman's oil ministry was quoted as saying last week in an Oman newspaper.

The official also said Oman was adhering to a decision taken last April by six non-OPEC states to cut exports by five per cent in the second half of 1989 to support OPEC's efforts to stabilise oil market prices.

However, oil industry sources in the region said the cuts were aimed at helping the market at the time and were not pursued strictly after the second quarter.

"Oman's term contracts have a clause that gives both parties the right to raise or decrease oil liftings by 10 per cent, so a five per cent cut does not make any difference," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said.

Oil industry sources said Oman is one of the few countries in the region that have continued the relentless search for oil to boost its moderate reserves.

They said Oman's proven crude reserves were now estimated at around 4.3 billion barrels, above 4.1 billion estimated last year.

The latest discovery by Oman's major oil exploration and production company, Petroleum Development Oman, was at Hawqa in central Oman. The well test flowed around 3,145 b/d, the sources said.

Jordan, Tunisia widen industrial, commercial ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Ziad Innab and Tunisian National Economy Minister Munser Balid Thursday signed minutes of the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Tunisian economic committee.

The minutes covered a wide range of economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and transport issues.

In the commercial field, the two parties fixed the volume of commercial exchange at \$40 million, including \$20 million for trade centres, \$5 million for commercial markets and \$15 million for free dealings.

In the industrial sphere, the two parties decided to call on representatives of the industrial sector to draw up the necessary criteria for ensuring industrial

coordination.

In the area of transport, the two sides called on maritime shipping lines to increase the number of journeys made between the two countries.

Earlier Thursday, Balid and Innab visited Sabab Industrial Estate where they were briefed by its director, Fayez Suheimat, on its establishment, objectives and activities. Suheimat also briefed them on the estate's role in attracting local, pan-Arab and international investments.

Also Thursday, Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi received the Tunisian minister and discussed with him scopes of enhancing cooperation in the economic and commercial fields.

Higher pay settlements threaten jobs in Britain

LONDON (R) — The British government warned Thursday that higher pay settlements threatened to increase unemployment, now at its lowest level for nine years.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said the number of workers without jobs fell by 20,300 in October to 1.67 million — 5.9 per cent of the workforce — but average earnings rose by nine per cent in the year to September.

"Job creation and lower unemployment will be at risk from unjustified wage settlements.

Continuing progress will depend on moderation in wage costs," Fowler said in a statement which highlighted the Conservative government's anti-inflation battle.

On the nine per cent earnings rise, Fowler said: "These kind of pay settlements can only make us less competitive and therefore harm future job prospects."

But car workers at Ford factories in Britain, whose pay deals are often seen as a benchmark for industrial wage negotiations, are rejecting an offer of 9.5 per cent.

Production at Ford's engine plant at Bridgend, South Wales, was at a standstill Thursday after 1,500 workers walked out in protest over the pay offer.

Vauxhall car workers have turned down 9.7 per cent and ambulance crew and engineering workers' unions are also in dispute with their employers.

Economists had been forecasting a bigger unemployment reduction of around 27,000 in October. The number of jobless has declined for 39 consecutive months after peaking at around 3.2 million in 1986.

Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said Wednesday in a policy statement outlining his strategy to rein in inflation that the employment rate would be affected as the economy cooled down under his stewardship.

Major's sombre picture was of continued high interest rates, marginal growth and slow progress in putting things right.

The pound failed to react significantly to the latest batch of British economic indicators but dealers termed it vulnerable.

"Sterling's on eggshells. It won't take much to knock it down a few (West German) pfennigs," said Geoff Earmshaw of National Westminster Bank's strategic trading desk in London.

In a separate announcement, the treasury announced that the government repaid £2.7 billion (\$4.32 billion) of public debt during October.

The size of the repayment took analysts by surprise. They had expected a figure of around £1.9 billion (\$3.04 billion), describing the higher figure as a sign of buoyancy in the economy.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Cabinet approves protocol with Aden

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Thursday approved the agricultural cooperation protocol between Jordan and South Yemen. The protocol provides for strengthening cooperation in the fields of scientific research, developing animal wealth, veterinary research, and exchange of agricultural information and expertise.

Ministry to distribute chick peas today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Supply Ministry has recently imported 4,000 tonnes of chick peas to cover the need of the local market, a spokesman for the ministry said Thursday. The spokesman added that the first consignment, weighing 1,000 tonnes has been received by the ministry and that the remaining quantity will arrive soon. Starting Saturday, the ministry will distribute the quantity received to merchants and restaurants for selling to citizens in accordance with the prices fixed by the ministry; the source noted. The Cabinet had earlier allowed the private sector to import this foodstuff and to sell it in the local market at the prices fixed by the ministry.

CAEU to hold high-level talks soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will hold its 52nd session here during the first week of December, CAEU Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim said Thursday. Ibrahim added that the meeting's agenda has been finalised by the permanent deputy representatives who concluded their meetings here Thursday. The deputy representatives have discussed among other things the Secretary General's annual report and reviewed the economic difficulties currently facing the Arab countries. The deputy representatives recommended that the Arab planning bodies, and representatives of Arab economic organisations and funds meet to discuss the executive steps for implementing the CAEU's integrated development plan. They also called for adopting the council's draft budget for the year 1990 and for finding a solution to the difficult financial crisis the council is currently undergoing. The CAEU's session will be held at the level of finance, economy and trade ministers.

ACC labour chiefs to meet in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of Labour in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — will meet here on Dec. 17 to discuss the technical committees' reports on unifying legislations governing labour, social security, vocational training and information systems, in preparation for submitting them to the Higher Ministerial Committee during its forthcoming session. In another development, ministers of housing and reconstruction in the ACC countries will hold a meeting in Sanaa Tuesday to discuss means of implementing the Arab Housing agreement, concluded on the sidelines of the Sanaa ACC summit.

Iran, USSR sign agreements

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and the Soviet Union have signed a number of economic agreements, including one for exporting 2,000 Iranian-made railroad cars, the Islamic Republic News Agency has reported. The agency said the agreements signed so far include the joint manufacture in Iran of steam generators, industrial molding machines and machine instruments as well as expansion of the electrical industry in Iran. In addition, Iran will export the railroad cars to the Soviet Union, the agency reported. The Soviet Union is to help Iran in oil exploration, prop up its arms industry, build dams, power plants and railroads in return for exports of Iranian natural gas.

Caritas to give \$20m aid to Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A leading Lebanese charity has said it would spend \$20 million next year to help victims of the country's civil war. "It is the poorest who pay and who suffer," said a statement from Caritas Lebanon. The charity, affiliated to the Roman Catholic Church, began operating in Lebanon at the start of the war in 1975 and helps all communities. A delegation from Caritas Europe, which will provide most of the funds, is visiting Lebanon this week. Members said there was an enormous need for schooling, medical care, help for the aged, and the rehousing of refugees and other war victims. At the end of 1987, there were 600,000 refugees, 40,000 orphans and 9,700 handicapped people as a result of the fighting, according to a Caritas Lebanon study.

Syria to award new oil concessions

ABU DHABI (R) — Syria is negotiating with a number of international oil companies to award new oil exploration concessions, Oil Minister Mianios Habib was quoted as telling the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan. Habib said Syria had so far signed 11 exploration agreements with foreign companies. The last two were with Italian Agip Gas, and a Yugoslav company, the minister said. Agip SPA Agis. CN is a unit of Italy's state energy group Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi. "There are negotiations with more firms and we expect they will lead to contracts," Habib was quoted as saying. Syria currently produces around 350,000 barrels per day of crude oil.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday November 16, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	102.3	103.3
U.S. dollar	639.0	645.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.1	448.5
Pound Sterling	1029.7	1039.2	Dutch guilder	307.7	310.8
Deutschmark	347.2	350.7	Swedish crown	99.2	100.2
Swiss franc	393.2	397.1	Italian lira (for 100)	47.3	47.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	165.2	166.9

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Nov. 11-15	Nov. 4-7
Daily average	JD 1,728,006	JD 2,068,581
Total volume	JD 6,912,023	JD 8,274,325
Total shares	3,107,238	3,354,474
No. of contracts	3,889	3,984

Sectoral trading:

	JD 4,814,553	JD 5,620,294
Industrial	(69.7%)	(67.1%)
Financial	JD 1,606,287	JD 1,908,024
	(23.2%)	(22.8%)
Service	(6.4%)	(7.7%)
Insurance	(0.7%)	(2.4%)

Share price index	134.3	134.0
No. of companies	61	62
Price movement (rise)	18	24
(decline)	20	23
(stable)	23	15

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.5745/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1680/90	Canadian dollar
	1.8428/35	Deutschmarks
	2.0800/10	Dutch guilders
	1.6322/32	Swiss francs
	38.66/69	Belgian francs
	6.2675/725	French francs
	1355/1356	Italian lire
	144.25/35	Japanese yen
	6.4475/525	Swedish crowns
	6.9125/75	Norwegian crowns
	7.1600/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	393.00/393.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market ended slightly up but a drop in the December futures contract indicated renewed pessimism. The All Ordinaries index rose 5.1 to 1,634.4.

TOKYO — Typical Friday restraint and wariness over a potentially overheated index dragged share prices off earlier highs, but the Nikkei index still reached a record close of 35,963.74.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended higher on late, light buying breaching the 2,800 psychological resistance level. The Hang Seng index rose 14.78 to 2,804.29.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed mixed in thin and lethargic trade as bargain-hunting alternated with light profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 2.09 to 1,337.69.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange, recovering from a fire last Sunday, remained closed Friday.

FRANKFURT — The market closed steady. Dealers reported continued demand for stocks likely to benefit from the opening of East Germany's borders. The 30-share DAX index rose 1.94 to 1,531.52.

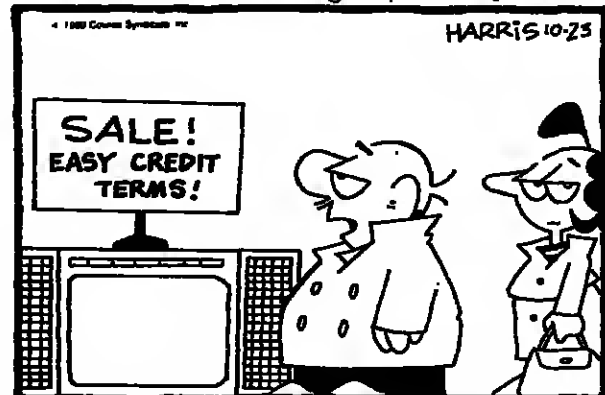
ZURICH — Prices closed higher after quiet trading with interest centred on selected stocks, particularly chemicals. The all-share Swiss performance index rose 7.9 to 1,103.8.

PARIS — Prices were broadly steady after opening lower on the news of a wider-than-expected French trade deficit in August. The CAC-40 index gained 0.06 to 1,830.07.

LONDON — The market closed firmer despite data showing an annual British inflation rate of 7.3 per cent. Dealers said prices were supported by an absence of sellers. At 1558 GMT the FTSE-100 index was up 13.6 to 2,223.4.

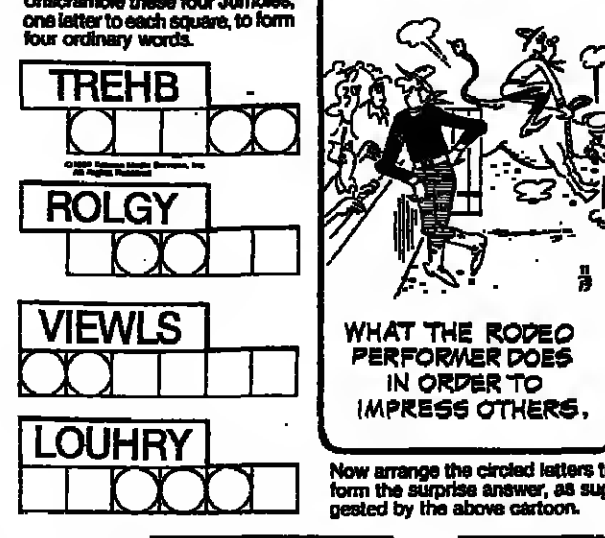
NEW YORK — Stocks recovered early losses to push the market higher but dealers noted factors suggesting more volatility. The Dow was up 10 to 2,645.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Another \$20 a month won't kill us. And if it does, we'll be dead and it won't matter!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



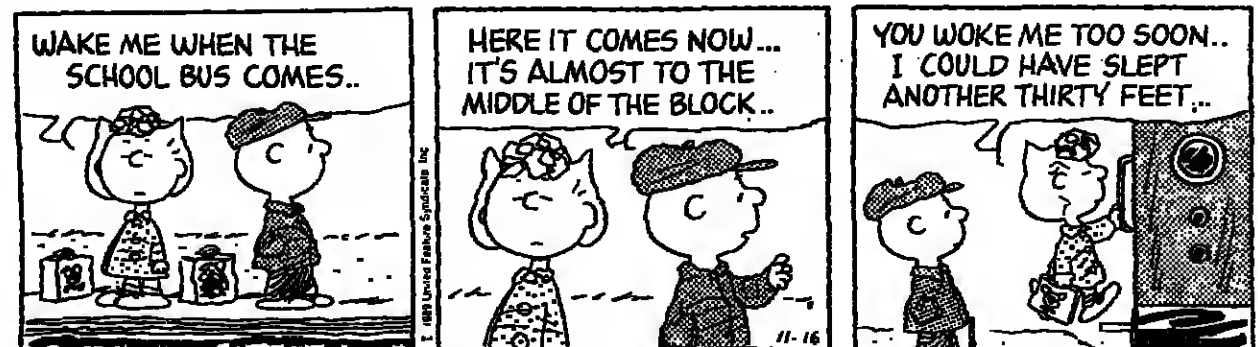
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: O O O O O THE (Answers tomorrow)

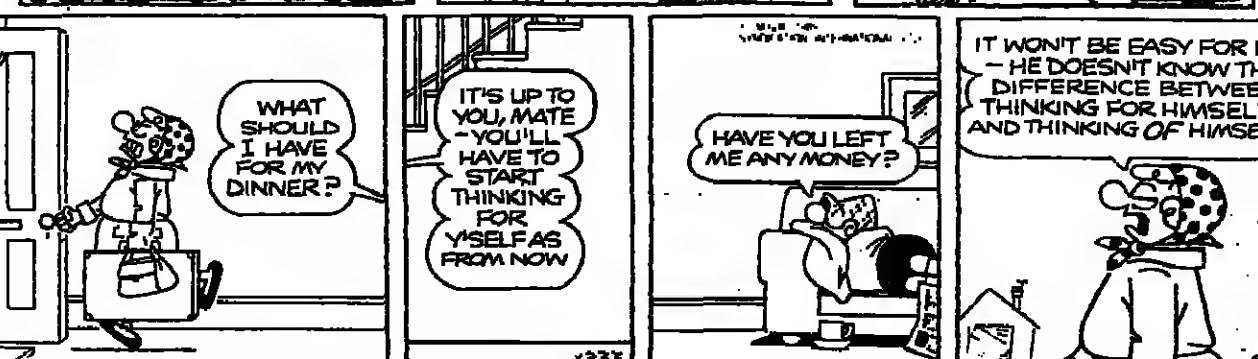
Saturday's Jumble: ODIOUS BANJO CIRCUS HAPPEN

Answer: What to tie up that grand with—PIANO "CHORDS"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



'Hero of the world' fascinates Japanese

MIYAKONOJO, Japan (R) — To the local people of this tiny Japanese community, Richard Branson is the "hero of the world."

Huge signboard all over the town proclaim the Briton to be such as the countdown begins for an attempt to make the first hot-air balloon crossing of the Pacific.

The Jules verne aspect of the voyage, which Swedish balloonist Per Lindstrand will share with Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, has fascinated the people of Miyakonjo, in the mountains of the southern Kyushu island.

From schoolchildren to grandmothers, they flock to see Branson, 39, at the site of the launch,

which could take place as early as Tuesday, depending on the weather.

Much may happen between launch and landing and both Branson and Lindstrand say they are aware of the dangers.

"I overheard one British television crew rehearsing my obituary," Branson said, laughing, during an interview with Reuters.

In 1987, Branson and Lindstrand made a record-breaking one-and-a-half-day balloon crossing of the Atlantic.

During that flight, radio communications were cut when their balloon's ailerons were lopped off by trees.

"Last time... we had enough fearful moments to last a lifetime," Branson said.

"There's nothing safe about this," Lindstrand said.

Lindstrand, president of British balloon manufacturer Thunder and Colt, designed the huge 60-metre high balloon.

The sleepy farming town of Miyakonjo was chosen as the ideal launch site because it lies just under the swift-moving jet-stream.

The balloonist pair hope the winds will carry them in almost a straight line at 240 to 320 kph (150 to 220 mph) to the west coast of the United States in about four days.

One danger lies in being struck by lightning on the 30,000-foot ascent to the jetstream, which is lashed with temperate weather.

Slipping out of the jetstream is a ticket to going far off-course since the balloon cannot be steered and is at the mercy of wind currents.

"If you get spat out of the jetstream you could end up in

Pacific seas around Alaska, and at the worst time of the year for cold," Lindstrand said. "To the south of that, you have sharks, which I don't fancy much."

Branson said he refused to lose sleep mulling over worst-case scenarios, although both men have tried to take into account all eventualities in their drills.

The optimum voyage would be a straight shot along the jetstream with an early morning soft landing in desert between the Sierra Nevada and the rocky mountains, Branson said.

Despite the dangers, multi-millionaire Branson said he was doing the flight because: "I want to live life to the full."

Despite all the flurries about the flight, not everyone in Miyakonjo is quite sure what it is all about.

"One guy I talked to said he heard Richard Branson was going to be launched to the moon," said city official Yasuo Noguchi.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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COUNT HIM OUT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ A Q
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 6 5 4 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 3
♥ 6 3 2
♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ K Q 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ K 10 5 2
♥ K J 10 4
♦ K J 6
♣ A J

The bidding: South West North East

1 NT Pass 6 NT Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♣

We have often seen players rolling

their eyes skyward as if seeking

help from the almighty. We have yet

to find one recorded case of divine

intervention. Therefore, we suggest

bridge players rely on their own

ability.

North's jump to six no trump was

perhaps a little conservative in view

of the five-card suit. However, with

no high honor in his long suit,

North discounted that asset and set-

tled for the value raise.

West did well not to lead from his

club holding, which would have given

declarer the contract there and

then. After a heart lead, declarer

could count only 11 tricks, and the

12th could come only from spades,

or an unlikely lie of the club suit.

The question: Whether to play for a 3-3 drop or to take a third-round spade finesse. Mathematically, the odds slightly favor playing for a drop once both defenders have followed to two rounds of the suit.

Although it might not be obvious, as the cards lie declarer has a sure-trick play for the contract. All South has to do is count the hand. The way to get a complete picture of the distribution is to concede a club trick early.

Suppose declarer wins the first trick in dummy and immediately leads a club to the jack. Let's say West takes the queen and continues with a heart. Declarer cashes out the hearts, learning West started off with four of them. Next come three rounds of diamonds, and when West shows out, six of his cards are known. Declarer continues with the ace of clubs, and East's discard is very revealing—another five of West's cards can be counted, which leaves West with only two spades. So declarer cashes the ace and queen and, when the jack does not drop, confidently continues by taking the "marked" finesse of the ten for the fulfilling trick.

Available for a limited time as a special offer is a two-for-one package of **DOUBLES** booklets. For your copies send \$3 to "GOREN DOUBLES," care this newspaper, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426. Make checks payable to "Newspaperbooks."

Navratilova survives epic battle with Seles

NEW YORK (R) — Martina Navratilova got a glimpse of the future of women's tennis on Thursday as she survived a heart-stopping epic with 15-year-old Monica Seles at the \$1 million, year-end championships.

The second-seeded Navratilova hung on to pull out a 6-3, 5-7, 7-5 quarter-final victory in two hours and 20 minutes after watching a 6-3, 5-1 lead evaporate.

"I could very well have thrown in the towel after I lost the second set," said the 33-year-old five-time champion. "But I hung in there. I'm exhausted both physically and mentally."

The problem for the Czechoslovak-born American was that no one told Seles the match was all but over when she trailed 1-5 in the second set.

The seventh-ranked Yugoslav teenager, displaying poise far beyond her years, reeled off six straight games, breaking Navratilova twice while the world number two was serving for the match.

Navratilova, who is accustomed to overpowering most opponents, was forced to rely on patience, soft-touch volleys and precision shot placement to score against Seles.

The sixth seed generates astounding power for someone of her slight build and would have beaten the 33-year-old Navratilova in a slug-fest.

Like a baseball power hitter who swings for the fences on every pitch, Seles goes for winners on virtually every shot, punctuating the stroke with a loud grunt.

Early in the match many of those shots were sprayed wide or long, but when Seles found her range she started catching the lines and corners.

On numerous points the attacking second seed watched helplessly, letting out a cry of "that's too good" as the ball blazed past her out of reach.

"She had such good returns of serve I couldn't come in on my second serve," Navratilova said of Seles, who was five years old when Navratilova first became number one in the world.

The ninth-game of the deciding set proved crucial for Navratilova as she fought off three break points that could have left Seles serving for the match.

She followed a cross court smash with a perfectly-placed volley into the opposite corner to hold for 5-4 and became visibly energized by those points.

"I would have probably lost the match if I had lost that game," Navratilova admitted.

On her next service game at 5-5, Navratilova held with two aces and a service winner and then broke Seles for the match with a looping forehand that just caught the corner.



Saunders' balancing act

MOTORCYCLE trials is the art of balancing and teasing a motorcycle through a treacherous series of hazards, or sections, without putting your feet down. It sounds simple. It is not.

At the end of the each season the British Experts' Trial tests the country's top riders. It was the 54th running of an event which originated in 1929 and has been held for the past nine years on the steep, wooded slopes of Hawkstone Park.

One week earlier Steve Saunders, the British No. 1, had clinched his seventh national trials championship. Now the 24-year-old was going for a seventh British Experts win,

breaking Sammy Miller's record.

Saunders first won it in 1982, and only John Lampkin, of the legendary motocross and trials family from Yorkshire, interrupted his run the following year.

Britain used to rule the world stage. Now only Saunders is a world championship contender, and the chasm between the quiet Gloucestershire man and his English rivals is awesome.

Yet he no longer considers himself a genuine world title prospect in a sport now dominated by young Scandinavians, Spaniards and Italians, plus the ever-present Thierry Michaud of France — The Guardian.

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THE Daily Crossword by Joel A. Berman

ACROSS

1 — Scott
5 Actor Peter
9 Put off
14 Where the
Tiber flows
15 August
18 Salt palate
pendant
17 Anticlerical
19 Shankar
19 Fragrant shrub
20 By the way
22 Track piece
24 Author Annals
25 NE river
28 Ms Jillian
29 — Na Na
32 Meta
33 Put away
36 Organic
compound
38 Without
proper respect
41 Russell's
42 Miami's
county
43 Music for 16A
44 Was on top
47 Tar
48 RR stop
50 Mimic's action
52 Nevertheless
53 Kind of acid
60 High pair
61 Algerian port
62 Singer Ross
63 Matador's
victim
64 — strip
65 Philosopher
Georges
66 Short jacket
67 Fit of pique

DOWN

1 Lat tail
2 Church
3 Arab prince
4 Legenderna
5 Military
stronghold
6 Nursemaids to
the Chinese
7 Embankment

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. BELT
2. SHIRAZ
3. BIAN
4. ALIAT
5. PROBE
6. LIAO
7. DISCOMFORTED
8. FATH
9. BAKAN
10. ADDRESS
11. FIVE
12. MOMENTS
13. AMERICA
14. MATA
15. LOAN
16. ACCORD
17. DESA
18. DISCOMFORTED
19. AILE
20. ARIAL
21. OLIVER
22. SILENT
23. JEROME
24. SAVANNAH
25. REAR
26. GORRA
27. GENT
28. ADO
29. DISCOMFORTED
30. ASTA
31. ALURED
32. LIARD
33. REAR
34. STIVILE
35. LIARS

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PHILADELPHIA

"DRUM"

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NUJUM

BATMAN

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

CROCODILE DUNDEE Part II

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00

6 Jesuit priests killed and mutilated

Heavy fighting between troops, rebels continues in San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (Agencies) — Government forces and guerrillas battled early Friday after six Roman Catholic priests were killed and mutilated by armed men and government forces arrested 12 Lutheran church workers.

Flares illuminated the predawn sky in San Salvador and the sound of mortars, rockets and machine guns echoed through the capital on the seventh day of the fiercest offensive in the country's 10-year-old civil war.

The fighting raged throughout the day Thursday, as army troops battled guerrillas in the streets, block by block, and continued into the night as a curfew took effect.

An intense battle was fought around Jose Simeon Canas Central American University, where armed men killed and mutilated six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter before dawn Thursday.

One witness contended the killings were committed by government soldiers — a charge that rightist President Alfredo Cristiani denied.

Later Thursday, uniformed security officers raided a downtown office of the Lutheran Church and arrested 12 missionary workers, including a Spaniard and seven West Germans, said Michel Gagne, a consular officer at the Canadian embassy.

President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala proposed Thursday that the Organisation of American States (OAS) send a delegation to El Salvador to negotiate a ceasefire. He said such a truce should be supervised by U.N. forces.

Reports on fighting in the countryside were sketchy and casualty figures were incomplete. But at least 800 people have died and 1,600 have been wounded since the offensive began Saturday night in all 14 provinces of El Salvador, according to hospital reports, government and rebel sources.

The guerrilla offensive was

launched three days after the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front cancelled peace talks with the government following an Oct. 30 terrorist bombing that left 10 dead at a union hall.

The rebel leaders accused the government of complicity in the bombing.

The guerrilla commanders have acknowledged they cannot win the war militarily. But they said their offensive would prove the army also can't win and that Cristiani would be unable to govern without giving them a role in the government.

Although only 1,500 guerrillas are thought to be involved in the attack in San Salvador, the entire capital of 1 million people has seemed besieged over the past six days of warfare.

The government has imposed a state of siege and a curfew, and the rebels have declared a ban on all traffic. Virtually no stores or offices are open and the sounds of combat can be heard everywhere, such as A-37 fighter-bombers screaming overhead, followed by thundering explosions as bombs dropped.

The six priests — the leadership of the local Jesuit University — were murdered and mutilated along with their housekeeper and her daughter before dawn Thursday.

The Rev. Jose Maria Tojeira, head of the order in Central America, said two witnesses saw about 30 men in army uniforms entering the grounds of the priests' residence at the university just before the shooting started.

Cristiani told reporters at a news conference later Thursday that he had ordered an investigation.

In Vatican City, Pope John Paul Friday condemned as an

"act of appalling violence" the murder of six Jesuit priests.

In messages from the Vatican to the Archbishop of San Salvador, Arturo Rivera Damas, and the Jesuit superior general, the pontiff said he hoped the deaths of the six would not be in vain and appealed again for an end to violence in El Salvador.

"Expressing once again my fervent concern for actions against human life, I renew my urgent appeal for responsibility and harmony ... while praying that the sacrifice of those assassinated will induce all to renounce violence and respect the lives of their brothers," he wrote to the archbishop.

The pontiff said he was deeply saddened by the "barbarous assassinations," which he described as an "act of appalling violence."

In Washington, the United States said Thursday it will ask for an investigation into the kill-

ing of the six Jesuit priests, and will accelerate deliveries of military aid to government forces there.

"We do not know who committed this barbarous act, which we condemn in the strongest possible terms," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater condemned the killings in a statement late Thursday and said the Salvadorean government was reported to have begun an investigation.

"We condemn in the strongest possible terms the outrageous murder of Father Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the University of Central America, and the other Jesuit priests in El Salvador," Fitzwater said.

"We understand that the Salvadorean government has begun an investigation and we will be watching this investigation closely."

Mladenov replaces Zhivkov as Bulgarian president

SOFIA (AP) — Parliament advanced its purge of old guard Communist Party members Friday in an unprecedented nationally broadcast session by ousting former Communist leader Todor Zhivkov as head of state.

It replaced him with Petar Mladenov, who took over as party leader from Zhivkov last Friday.

It was the first live television broadcast of a parliament session in the history of the Communist state and came a day after the party's Central Committee ousted three hard-line politburo members and promoted four liberal Communists likely to back Mladenov in implementing reforms.

Mladenov has moved swiftly to secure his position in the party. Informed sources said further

top level changes were expected in the party and the government to clear out old guard Communist loyal to Zhivkov's rule.

The 400-member National Assembly, or parliament, voted unanimously by show of hands to oust Zhivkov as head of state and in a separate vote to replace him with Mladenov.

Deputies, in frank public debate, praised Mladenov for his "enthusiasm" for perestroika — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of restructuring — and levelled unprecedented criticism on Zhivkov.

Deputy Slavcho Tmski delivered a scathing attack on Zhivkov to the stunned deputies, accusing the former leader of having led the country into deep economic crisis while leading a "flamboyant lifestyle."

Moldavian party chief removed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Moldova's Communist Party chief has been removed after activists criticised him for slowing reforms in his tiny, ethnically divided republic.

The Soviet News Agency TASS reported that the republic's policy-making Central Committee "relieved" Semyon Grossu as its first secretary because of a transfer to another job. It did not identify his new post, but the director of the republic's official news agency said Grossu would now work in Moscow.

Grossu's replacement is Pyotr Luchinsky, 49, who has been serving as the second highest party official in the Republic of Tadjikistan, TASS reported. Like Grossu, Luchinsky is an ethnic Moldavian.

Moldavia is one of the many ethnic hotspots in the Soviet Union where the local population is clamoring for more control over culture, economic and politics, and running into opposition from ethnic minorities led by Russians.

The TASS report did not hint that the Moldavian party was unhappy with Grossu, but activists Sunday had begun circulating a petition demanding removal of conservatives among the republic's top officials.

Grossu and three of his deputies were on the list because he was an "inactive arch-conservative" blamed for economic, ecological and political problems, said Konstantin Bogdanash, a spokesman for the grassroots group People's Front that organised the petition drive.

The People's Front began the campaign after a Nov. 10 brawl between police and protesters that left almost 200 people injured. The demonstrators were demanding the release of 20 people arrested three days earlier while attempting to stage another protest.

Meanwhile the Kremlin faced more defiance from restive Baltic republics Thursday as Lithuanian Communists told the ruling Soviet politburo in crisis talks they still plan to form their own party.

Tornado kills 27 in U.S.

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (AP) — National Guardsmen stood watch against looting Thursday while work crews dug at the debris of a tornado that struck virtually without warning, leaving 27 people dead and about 1,000 homeless.

No bodies were believed left in the rubble, but portions of the city resembled a bombing target. A shopping centre and clusters of apartment buildings were leveled. Cars were piled atop each other. Utility poles had been snapped like twigs.

The storm system that struck Huntsville — a violent clash of unusually warm and cold air — continued its march north Thursday, leaving seven schoolchildren dead in Newburgh, New York, and collapsing homes in New Jersey.

In West Virginia, high winds believed to be tornadoes swept Jefferson County, near Louisville, Kentucky, early Thursday, injuring four members of one family, two seriously.

Tornadoes were reported Wednesday in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina,

North Carolina, Kentucky and Indiana.

In Alabama, Governor Guy Hunt said he would ask President George Bush to declare Huntsville a disaster area to open the door to millions of dollars in federal relief. Mayor Steve Hettinger said no firm damage estimates were expected until Friday, but he put the number of homeless at 1,000.

Hunt assigned nearly 200 guardsmen to assist in the cleanup and help law officers guard against looting. Police spokeswoman Susan Williamson said there had been minor looting the night of storm but no arrests.

The temperature, which had risen to 23 Celsius before the storm Wednesday, plunged into the -1 Celsius early Thursday while rescuers worked through the night under the glare of floodlights.

The lights, powered by generators, produced an eerie glow in a area that was otherwise largely without power. Tall cranes lifted the heavy rubble, while workers with flashlights picked through the smaller pieces.

21 die in Tamil attacks on Sri Lankan police

COLOMBO (R) — At least 21 people were killed Friday in fierce pre-dawn battles in eastern Sri Lanka when fighters of an alleged Tamil militia attacked six police stations simultaneously, military sources and citizens said.

The military sources said 15 members of the underground Tamil National Army (TNA) and six security men died in fighting that raged for six hours in eastern Ampara district.

Residents of Kalmunai, 240 kilometres east of Colombo, said more than 20 TNA fighters were killed. A police official said 40 security men and 25 of the attackers were injured.

"The group was looking for tractors to ferry the bodies to safe areas," a citizen said by telephone.

In groups of 40 men, TNA fighters with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns attacked police stations at Samanthurai, Kalmunai, Chavala-

kadai, Akkaraipattu, Karativu and one known as the Central Camp, the military said.

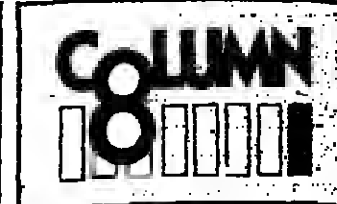
The Kalmunai resident said 600 Sri Lankan military reinforcements that rolled into the town Friday afternoon were greeted with gunfire.

"But the attacks were repulsed with the help of air force helicopters," he said.

On Tuesday, 400 soldiers were sent to Kalmunai after battles between the TNA and police, the first deployment of Sri Lankan troops in the area since the Indian army withdrew from Ampara last month.

Officials say the TNA is an offshoot of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which controls the provincial council in the Tamil-dominated north east and has forced its rule on both Tamil and Muslim areas in Ampara.

The EPRLF denies links with the TNA.



Picasso painting sold for \$40.7m

NEW YORK (AP) — In 1905, Pablo Picasso painted a scene in a Parisian tavern in exchange for food from the owner. On Wednesday, "An Lapin Agile" sold for \$40.7 million at auction. The painting, in which Picasso depicts himself as a harlequin, is "the most important 20th-century picture to come up for auction," said John L. Marion, chairman of Sotheby's North America auction gallery. The painting will go to the private collection of Walter Annenberg of California, a multi-millionaire businessman, philanthropist and personal friend of former President Ronald Reagan, the auction house said. "An Lapin Agile" was painted four years after another famous self-portrait, "Yo Picasso," which sold for \$47.85 million at Sotheby's in May. That was a record for the artist and more than double its pre-sale estimate. The record for any work of art — \$53.9 million — was set in 1987 for Vincent van Gogh's "Olive Trees." Marion said in a statement prior to the sale that he expected "An Lapin Agile" to "generate the same level of interest among collectors." The pre-sale estimate was \$35 million to \$40 million.

Bush gives 11 medals for arts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conductor-composer Leonard Bernstein is refusing to accept the 1990 National Medal of Arts because of a controversy over the cancellation of a federal grant to an art exhibit on AIDS. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday, Bernstein "wrote to us in the last few days" to say he had changed his mind about accepting the award. Fitzwater told reporters flying with President George Bush to Houston, Texas, The White House announced Wednesday that 12 writers, artists and art patrons and a corporation are being given the award. One medal will go posthumously to pianist Vladimir Horowitz, who died on Nov. 5. Bernstein was not on the list announced by the White House, but officials acknowledged he had been selected for the honour. The other award-winners include jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, writer John Updike and photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, as well as the Dayton Hudson Corp.

Nobel laureate 'faked articles'

ROME (AP) — A new book and a newspaper have disclosed that the late Nobel laureate Eugenio Montale signed literary articles that were actually written by a friend. The Milan-based newspaper Il Giornale recently published a series of letters Montale wrote in 1950 to an American friend, Henry Furst, asking him to put together several book reviews that would appear under Montale's name. The deal also was detailed in a book about first published this month, "Dry Brinches," by Mario Soldati. The disclosures surprised Italians, who grew up revering the verses of the reclusive Montale, including Occasions, Finisterre and a collection titled Cuttlefish Bones. Montale, who often wrote of the sea in his native Genoa, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957. He died in 1981 at age 85. Most commentators have expressed sympathy for Montale, who, according to Soldati, arranged for the ghost-written articles during a period in which he was very tired and felt unable to write.

'Worst toy' list unveiled

BOSTON (R) — A movie demon's razor-like fingers and a rocket for 10-year-olds that its maker says should not be used near low-flying aircraft were among the top 10 "worst toys" named by a consumer advocate attorney, Edward Schwartz, a Boston lawyer who specializes in litigation over defective products, unveiled this 18th annual list of the 10 worst toys flanked by some of the hundreds of schoolchildren who helped choose them. "Every year more than 500,000 children are injured because of dangerous toys," Schwartz told the children and teachers at an elementary school. "The toys on this list are all in some way objectionable and shouldn't be sold as toys." Among the toys singled out by Schwartz were three replicas from the popular "Nightmare on Elm Street" horror film series, which features demonic Freddy Krueger, who tends to prey on defenceless young women. The toys are replicas of Freddy's meat cleaver and butcher knife and a glove that mimics his menacing razor-like fingers — described by the manufacturer as "horribly authentic."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mandela expects release by July

CAPE TOWN (R) — Nelson Mandela, the black nationalist leader jailed by South Africa since 1963, has told a friend he expects to be free by July next year, a Cape Town newspaper said Friday. Mandela's timetable contrasted with government hints that he would be released in January or February, when President F.W. de Klerk is expected to announce further moves to reform apartheid. The Cape Times newspaper said Mandela told Johannesburg businessman Richard Maponya during a four-hour prison visit Thursday that he felt the prospects for his release were good. "Mr. Mandela told him... he thought this would be before July next year," the newspaper said. Maponya, a relative by marriage, was among dozens of people who have visited Mandela this year in the guarded former warder's house near Cape Town that serves as a luxury prison. De Klerk, who became president in August, has already freed eight senior black nationalists serving life terms alongside Mandela. Mandela's release is widely seen as the key to meaningful talks on political power sharing between the government and the disenfranchised black majority, which outnumbered whites by five to one.

Chinese premier arrives in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in Bangladesh Friday on the second stop of a three-nation South Asian tour, his first trip abroad since Peking's June crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations. Li's trip, which began with a four-day stay in Pakistan, has been widely seen as an attempt to offset China's diplomatic isolation from the West following the crackdown. Li was welcomed at the airport by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and received a 19-gun salute. Neither Bangladesh nor Pakistan criticised China for the military suppression of the student movement in which hundreds of people were killed. Many Western nations froze political ties to protest the slayings. "We believe it was their internal affair," Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said Tuesday. China is Bangladesh's main military supplier and an important trade partner.

Election campaign starts in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — For the next two weeks Taiwan residents will be subjected to the noise, pageantry, guns and money of the island's most open campaign, with a record number of candidates competing for Dec. 2 elections. The campaign period for the elections, the first since the end of martial law in 1987 and the first in which the opposition party can legally contest, officially began Friday. Candidates can now drive trucks blaring propaganda through residential areas from early morning until late at night. They can also hold up to six two-hour rallies each day. Schools, playgrounds, parks and the island's Buddhist and Taoist temples have all long been booked as venues. One candidate Friday morning parked his sound truck outside a stock brokerage, hoping to attract investors with his message of prosperity. But the investors were more interested in immediate profits and ignored the truck as they pressed inside to make their trades.

Manila beefs up army in south

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — The Philippine army poured fresh troops into the Mindanao region Friday and declared Muslim separatists in the south could not stop Sunday's autonomy plebiscite to decide the troubled area's future. Despite President Corazon Aquino's assurances that the armed forces could handle any rebel challenge, a spate of bomb attacks Thursday sharpened tension in Christian areas. Shopkeepers and public-transport and petrol-station operators in General Santos City said they were suspending business for the weekend after they received anonymous letters telling them to close up temporarily. The local military said it did not have enough men to protect them. A rebel-planted land mine blew up a truck and toppled power lines in North Cotabato province and army patrols shot dead two guerrillas in clashes in Lanao Del Sur, military reports said. Thirteen provinces with a combined population of nine million Christians and Muslims are to vote on Manila's offer of partial autonomy to the battle-scarred region, 800 kilometres south of Manila.

S. African gunman killed in gun fight

CAPE TOWN (R) — A gunman blew himself up with a hand grenade Friday after a seven-hour shoot-out with South African police, an official said.

Police spokeswoman Denise Benson said the man was a "foreign-trained terrorist", a description that usually means an African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla.

Hiding in a house in a coloured (mixed race) suburb, he kept a large force of police at bay for several hours with automatic rifle fire and hand grenades. One policeman was shot in the hand and another was lightly wounded by grenade shrapnel.

The man refused appeals to surrender, Benson said. Then police heard a loud bang. "When they went inside to inspect they found the man was dead. He had been blown up by one of his own grenades," she said.

On Thursday, President F.W. de Klerk opened South Africa's beaches to all races and vowed to scrap a major segregation law in the latest step of his three-month-old drive to reform apartheid.

"All beaches will henceforth be accessible to all members of the public," De Klerk told the president's advisory council in Cape Town.

White supremacists fumed over the move while anti-apartheid leaders gave it guarded approval.

"I am upset. This will not be tolerated. We will all have to take the necessary steps to stop this," said Rozier de Ville, a parliamentarian of the white pro-apartheid Conservative Party. He declined to say what those steps might be.

"This is the best news I have had for a long time... we can look forward to a peaceful Christmas," said anti-apartheid campaigner Margaret Ambler. De Klerk said he had also decided to repeal the 1953 separate amenities act which empowers, but does not oblige, local councils to reserve public facilities such as parks and libraries for whites.

The act covers most recreation areas and public facilities including halls, toilets and swimming pools, but not schools or hospitals, which will remain segregated.

One analyst said the abolition of the separate amenities act would make it impossible for town councils controlled by the far-right Conservative Party to bar blacks from public places as they do now.

CIA reportedly launches bid to oust Noriega

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The CIA has launched a \$3-million operation, with the approval of two congressional committees, to overthrow Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega, a newspaper has reported.

The covert operation has "no restrictions" other than an order prohibiting Noriega's assassination and could involve U.S. troops, the Los Angeles Times newspaper reported, citing unidentified sources.

"It is an unimpeded effort to try to topple Noriega," one source told the Times. "We're going into it with the understanding that there may be loss of life," though the effort will be not to kill anyone."

President George Bush said at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, before leaving for Houston Thursday that he would neither confirm nor deny the report.

"If there was a covert operation, would I discuss it, ever? It wouldn't be covert if I even referred to it, so there will be no such discussion of anything, which means I am not confirming nor denying," he told reporters on Air Force One.

Vice President Dan Quayle also declined to comment directly on the report Thursday. But when asked if it was proper for the United States to try to get involved in an effort to oust Noriega, he replied:

"It's certainly proper for the United States to state the policy very clearly, and that policy is that the sooner Noriega leaves power, the better off the people of Panama are going to be, the better off the people of Central America are going to be...."

Asked if the administration and Congress were still coordinated on the effort to get Noriega out, Quayle said: "The policy on Panama and other issues are very closely coordinated with the Congress. This president insists on consultation and he has gone out of his way to consult with Congress on this and other matters."

The United States has been trying to oust Noriega, chief of Panama's defence forces and the power behind the government, since he was indicted on drug-trafficking charges in February 1988 in Miami and Tampa, Florida.

Noriega denies involvement in drug trafficking and claims the United States is trying to force him out because it wants to renegotiate on 1977 treaties that cede control of the Panama Canal by the end of the century.

"What it boils down to is that we want him alive in the United States or dead," one source told the Times.

Sources told the newspaper the CIA believes disgruntled officers within the Panama Defence Forces are willing to collaborate in the overthrow.

The operation has been dubbed Panama-5 — a reference to past actions against Noriega — and reflects a renewed commitment by the Bush administration. The Bush administration drew criticism from Democrats and Republicans following the failed Oct. 3 coup attempt against Noriega by dissident Panamanian military officers.

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It is Gandhi against Gandhi in Amethi

AMETHI, India (R) — It will be Gandhi versus Gandhi in next week's national elections in the Indian prime minister's home constituency of Amethi.

The battle for this huge rural constituency in north India is between the grandsons of the two most eminent men in Indian politics.

One is Rajiv Gandhi, grandson of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The other is Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.

Rajmohan's supporters, although strapped for cash and resources, are fighting a battle to persuade the electorate of nearly 900,000 that their nominee is the "real" Gandhi.

Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party is being tipped by pollsters to be heading for humiliation nationally but there is little doubt about who is going to win in Amethi.

Rajmohan, a tall ascetic looking man, is invoking his grandfather's name to get votes and appears convinced that he can triumph over the huge resources and party apparatus at his rival's command.

But even his opposition Janata Dal volunteers sheepishly admit their chances are slim. "For two weeks I have been swallowing the dust of Amethi. Now I think I have seen more of it than Rajiv has in 10 years," Rajmohan told a meeting this week of 500 villagers near Amethi.

"If Jawaharlal Nehru's grandson

can ask you for your votes then surely Mahatma Gandhi's grandson can also beg you for votes," said the former journalist.

"I have been chosen because the Janata Dal wants to use Gandhi's name to end corruption," he said.

Corruption is a hot issue in the elections after allegations that Swedish arms maker Bofors paid millions of dollars to clinch a \$1.3 billion deal to supply the Indian army with field guns.

But in Amethi, one of India's most pampered constituencies with huge investments in factories, schools and hospitals, it draws only a lukewarm response.

"Corruption is everywhere," said farmer Ram Abhileshi Singh. "There are commission agents in villages who take cuts from us when we get bank loans."

"But Rajiv has done a lot for us. We cannot be ungrateful," added Singh who has a small farm 25 kilometres from Amethi.

Amethi district in Uttar Pradesh state is well off. There is drinking water in the villages, wells in farms, electricity in homes and a rural network of radio telephones that would be the envy of any village in the country.

Singh still plans to vote Congress. Other customers in the tea shop were holding forth noddled in agreement. "We cannot cut off the nose to spite the face," said one.

"Rajiv is a good man," said another. "He means well but these commission agents are cor-

rupt."

Gandhi himself is busy campaigning elsewhere in the country but his Italian-born wife Sonia and daughter Priyanka are spending more than 12 hours a day touring Amethi.

The party's campaign machinery is working smoothly. Colour posters of Gandhi adorn walls everywhere. Welcome arches make the party's presence felt.

Despite this Rajmohan Gandhi remains an optimist. "I will get a lot of anti-Rajiv votes," he said. "The wave will sweep Amethi."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a new poll showing opinion swinging against him, on Thursday plunged into the closing stages of campaigning for next week's Indian general elections with a fervent appeal for the Muslim vote.

He told a rally of 50,000 people in Calcutta that his government had successfully kept Hindus and Muslims apart in a dispute which flared last month over a sacred site in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

"The Hindus groups' open aim was to provoke a confrontation and there would have been fires in every corner of the country," he said.

Several hundred people were killed in Hindu-Muslim clashes in north India over the past three weeks in the dispute over Hindu fundamentalists plans to build a new temple on the site of a 16th century mosque.

Muslims were outraged when Gandhi allowed fundamentalists to hold foundation stone ceremonies at the site which Hindus say marks the birthplace of the deity Rama. Muslim leaders told their followers to vote against Gandhi's Congress Party.

The Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) believes it gained hugely from the issue, primarily at Congress's expense.

An opinion poll taken for the influential Sunday magazine predicted Congress would at best win 240 seats in the 545-member parliament, 33 seats short of an overall majority.

The poll, made available to Reuters Thursday ahead of its scheduled publication Friday, said the most likely Congress total was 215 although it could slip to as few as 180.

Congress could still form a government if it won 240 seats and wooed other parties into a coalition. But either of the lower figures would give opposition parties the chance to form a government for only the second time in India's 42 years of independence.